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THE POLITICS OF THE NEW YEAR.

WITH the general thaw we shall expect a dissolution of treaties on a large scale; and the break-up of winter in the centre and east of Europe may be the signal for the breaking up of more than one European State. Austria and Turkey are equally threatened; and just now it is in the States contiguous to both these empires—the Austro-Slavonian, Turco-Slavonian, and Rouman Principalities on the Danube—that the greatest agitation prevails. The “nationality” theory—the theory that each ethnologically separate portion of an empire has a right to its own “autonomy,” or self-government—is the pretext for all this revolutionary tumult, of which the result will be that the little States with autonomic aspirations will be completely absorbed by Powers who will not leave them even the ancient privileges which they have enjoyed both under the Austrian and under the Turkish rule. Perhaps Moldavia and Wallachia would prosper under Russian government; but their present object is not to become Russian—it is to become free and independent. But none of the Principalities are strong enough, separately or in alliance, to form independent States. Hitherto their only hope has been in their dependence on Austria or on Turkey. Austria's power on the Danube must have been a formidable obstacle to any designs Russia may have entertained upon the south-east of Europe, and we know how far the protection of Turkey was valuable to the Principalities by the Crimean War. A few minor States, or even one third-rate Power, on the Danube would be a great temptation to Russia—such a temptation that she has not been in the habit of resisting. It may be said—indeed, is said—that if the designed attack upon Austria by her “annexes” be successful, and if, at the same time, the European provinces of Turkey on the Danube succeed in freeing themselves from the Mussulman yoke, then the kingdom of the United Principalities will form a strictly offensive and defensive alliance with the independent kingdom of Hungary. This would render the task of Russia a little more difficult. It must be remembered, however, that Hungary is not peopled by Hungarians, but by seven millions of Hungarians and twenty millions of Slavonians, speaking almost the same language as the Slavonians or Russo-Slavonians of the immense empire which, in the often-devised figure Panslavonianism, forms the body. If Hungary once became Russian the United Principalities would soon follow. Perhaps it would be the turn of the Principalities first; but this question of precedence is really not important. Whatever weakens Austria and Turkey strengthens Russia, and to destroy Austria is to remove the “buffer” which has often saved Turkey from the precipitate advance of her go-ahead neighbour. With the Austrian empire broken up, and with Turkey in a state of skilfully-encouraged anarchy, what would there be to oppose Russia on the Danube? There will be twice as many good reasons for absorbing the Principalities as there were many bad ones for partitioning Poland;

and as surely as if the Channel Islands cease to be English they would become French, so surely will the Austrian and Turkish territory on the Danube, when it is lost by Austria and Turkey, be acquired by Russia.

We have already expressed our conviction that France is anxious to profit by the well-known absorbing tendencies of Russia, which, however, are being developed just now in the north of Asia with far greater and more certain profit than

and the rest of the provinces which lie between Russia on the one hand and Turkey and Austria Proper on the other? France thinks, no doubt, that by consenting to some aggression on the part of Russia against Turkey she will obtain that Power's permission to remain as long as she thinks fit in Syria. We believe, for our part, that France has forfeited the confidence of every Power in Europe, and that Russia will make no agreement with her as to the partition of Turkey, of which the continued occupation of Syria by the French would virtually be the commencement. The English Government has already called upon the Emperor Napoleon to state whether he is prepared to withdraw his army as soon as the six months during which he was empowered by the allied Powers to hold Syria shall have expired; and, strangely enough, immediately after the communication was received at the Tuileries news arrived in Paris from the East to the effect that fresh massacres were expected, and that it was necessary to increase the number of French troops in the neighbourhood of Damascus. We shall know in a few days whether France is really working in Syria with the countenance and support of Russia, or whether, having tried in vain to obtain it, she is actually there on her own account. The latter appears to us by far the most probable supposition, for we cannot believe, either that Russia is willing to ally herself, on any important question, with such a revolutionary, unstable, and treacherous Power as Imperial Democratic France, or that she is prepared to run the chances of a general war. It is said, now, that the Russian serf will be emancipated in March, and it is in that month, according to the statements of Italian and Hungarian officers who have received general instructions, that the great pronational, international, and antinational disturbance will begin. When there is no real necessity for fighting it is not to be expected that Russia, after such a crisis as she will have just passed through (with safety, we hope), will suddenly double her greatly-diminished army and go to war. At present, not only has the whole of her agricultural system to be remodelled, but she has also to revise her taxation, and to introduce a variety of changes (greatly needed) into the civil administration of the country. When once the serfs are liberated, and the power of the great nobles is diminished, Russia may become a more dangerous Power than she has ever yet been; for hitherto she has, singly, never been formidable to any of the great States of Europe. But landowners will not, as heretofore, be injured by the conscription, which will affect them just as it affects French proprietors—that is to say, not at all. An owner of serfs is not very pleased at having to give up so many per cent of his peasants to the army; but to a landlord under the free system it matters very little how many labourers are taken to serve the Crown. Hitherto the Russian Emperors have often been forced to make peace, and prevented from going to war, by the unwillingness of landlords to supply the necessary number of recruits for the military service.



WILLIAM I., KING OF PRUSSIA.

could possibly attend them in Europe, or even in Asiatic Turkey. But a firmer virtue—or rather let us call it prudence—than that of Russia has often given way before sudden and appropriate temptation, and we can fancy with what an eye the beautiful, unprotected Danube would be looked upon by the great ravisher of the North. We went to war about Turkey, and most of us regret it now, chiefly, however, because the war was not really inevitable; but who would recommend that we should fight for the independence of Moldavia, Wallachia,

The same check will not exist when the serfs are emancipated—or, at least, not to the same extent. But for the next year, and probably for some years afterwards, Russia will certainly not be in a position to go to war, unless it be forced upon her in such a way that the whole nation would accept the challenge, and of this there is, fortunately, no probability. Indeed, as long as any great State is sincerely desirous of remaining at peace, she has a natural ally in England; and there is a chance that England and Russia may yet maintain peace in Europe in 1861, though undoubtedly the elements exist of a most terrible outbreak.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

FREDERICK WILLIAM IV., King of Prussia, has died after a lengthened period of mental and political oblivion. With intellectual culture such as few men in Europe at the present day can boast of, the late King was fitted more for a speculative philosopher than for the ruler of a great nation. Possessing liberal sentiments, his mind was at the same time perverted by the despotic authority which has been held to be the divine right of Kings; and, although during his reign he released his subjects from many political restrictions, surrounded himself with men eminent in science and literature, and permitted a more extended freedom to the press, he was unwilling to allow his subjects any more definite grounds on which to claim their liberty than his own will, the States General being merely the shadow of a constitution to which he declined formally to pledge himself. During the last years of his life, however, he was fast sinking into imbecility, and it became apparent that he must be kept in retirement, while the government was provisionally directed by his brother, who was then Military Governor of Rhenish Prussia and the King's Lieutenant in Pomerania.

To this brother, from whom the King frequently differed in opinion, the Regency was assigned; and, although he was in many important respects opposed to the general opinions of the late King, it may be affirmed that the Government was more fully sustained and better organised under his rule. It would appear that the Prince looked upon Frederick the Great as his model, and took but little heed of those pursuits to which his brother had devoted himself; yet his conduct was, generally, more consistent, and his political principles more definite. Now that the death of the late King has raised him to the throne his policy will doubtless be marked by some decisive measures, although he professes to be actuated by the same love to his subjects as was always professed and often manifested by his brother. Less intellectual than the subtle reasoner, the scientific statesman, the literary monarch, who has dropped into his quiet sleep in the retirement of his private palace long after the active brain had ceased to think coherently, it may be that Prussia will benefit by the accession of her new King, who brings to her government the experience and decision of more than sixty years.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Prince Joachim Murat, accompanied by two of his Majesty's orderlies, has been dispatched to Berlin, bearing an autograph letter from the Emperor to the King of Prussia.

An Attaché from the Minister of Foreign Affairs left Paris on Tuesday morning for London, with despatches for M. de Flahault, which were supposed to be very important, as the private secretary of the Minister passed the greater part of the night in drawing them up.

Swarms of political agents, volunteer or official, have been off and on in Paris from various parts of Northern, Central, and Southern Italy for some time past. Several have had audience of the Emperor, but to all, it is said, he has held pretty nearly the same language—namely, his decided preference of a Confederation of States to a United Kingdom in Italy.

SPAIN.

The *Epoca* says that the Spanish Government will soon have 150,000 men, regular troops and militia, fit for active service. The Minister of Marine for Spain has informed the naval authorities that it has been resolved to introduce rifled cannon into the Spanish Navy. An official account states the floating debt on the 1st of the month at 1,013,999,701 reals.

PRUSSIA.

A deputation from the Municipality presented, on the 3rd instant, in the name of the city of Berlin, an address of condolence to the King.

His Majesty, in reply, expressed his deep grief at the heavy loss which had been sustained by the Royal family, and recalled how the late King, in addition to his high intellectual attainments, always took the most heartfelt interest in the welfare of his people, and how the Princes of Hohenzollern had always entertained feelings of affection for their subjects, whose interests they considered identical with their own. The King continued as follows:—

"Perhaps you have already discovered that in this respect I hold the same opinions. Formerly, perhaps, I was misunderstood; but I can assure you that I have always had the same love for my people. I should not be misunderstood."

I stated the principles of my government when I assumed the Regency on the 8th of November, 1858.

I shall invariably and inviolably maintain those principles during my future government. I gladly accept the expression of your loyalty. A time may come when I shall remind you of those expressions, for I reckon on the fidelity of my citizens, as the loyalty of my people has exalted us in situations of difficulty.

Many changes have taken place in the course of the past year, and all that has been done has not always been done rightly. No one shall induce me to abandon the principles which I have pronounced; and I give you the assurance that I shall, with true affection for my people, abide by these principles.

I authorise you to communicate to the citizens of Berlin the sentiments which I have expressed to you; and I thank you for what you have said in the name of the Municipality.

A proclamation, dated Berlin, January 7, has been issued by the King. It is headed, "To my people."

The proclamation commences by recalling the severe sufferings of the late King, and the profound grief at his death; how with free and Royal munificence he granted institutions, the development of which was to realise the hopes of the country.

The proclamation continues as follows:—

To the King, who know how to lay the foundation of such great things, and whose never-to-be-forgotten words, "I and my house will serve the Lord," have filled my soul, a prominent place is due in the glorious ranks of those monarchs to whom Prussia owes that greatness which made her the true representative of the German mind. I will faithfully guard that solemn bequest of my ancestors which they have founded, and augmented with unceasing care, with their best energies and at the risk of their lives. With pride I see myself surrounded by such a brave and faithful people and by so glorious an army. My hand shall protect the welfare and the right of all in every class of the population. It shall be extended to protect and support the precious life of the nation. It is the destiny of Prussia not to devote her life to the enjoyment of acquired good. The conditions of her power are founded in the exertion of her spiritual and moral forces, in the seriousness and the faithfulness of her religious feelings, in the combination of obedience with freedom, and in the strengthening of her military force. In this manner alone can she take her rank among the States of Europe. I remain faithful to the traditions of my house in proposing to myself the mission of elevating and of strengthening the patriotic spirit of my people. I will consolidate and build up the rights of the State on their historical basis, and I will maintain the institutions which King Frederick William IV. has brought

into life. Faithful to the oath which I took on assuming the Regency, I shall protect the Constitution and the laws of the kingdom. May I, by the merciful will of God, succeed in leading Prussia to new honours. My duties towards Prussia coincide with my duties towards Germany. As a German Prince I am bound to strengthen Prussia in that position which, according to her glorious history and the development of her military organisation, she must for the good of Germany occupy among the German States. Confidence in the peace of Europe is shaken, but I shall endeavour to preserve the blessings of peace. Dangers may nevertheless arise for Prussia and Germany. May the courage which trusts in God and which has animated Prussia in her great periods then manifest itself in me and my people, and may the latter then stand firm by my side and follow me with faithful obedience and perseverance. May the blessing of God rest on the mission which his highest will has intrusted to me."

It is confidently stated from Berlin that a complete political amnesty will shortly be declared in Prussia for all cases to which the Royal prerogative of pardon extends.

AUSTRIA.

By an autograph letter, dated the 7th inst., the Emperor has granted a very comprehensive amnesty for Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Slavonia on account of such penal acts as have merely aimed at a change in the system of government as established before October 20, 1860, or which were in any way connected with such a purpose.

The Polish province of Austria is following the example of the other nationalities in demanding independent institutions. A deputation from Galicia was received on Thursday week by M. de Schmerling, which presented an address asking, among other things, for indivisibility of the province, convocation of a diet for provincial affairs, use of the Polish language in official affairs and in schools, and, finally, that Galicia may send no members to the Council of the Empire.

The state of public feeling in Vienna is represented as very deeply depressed. It is stated that the pardon granted to Count Teleky is to be followed up by an amnesty, permitting all Hungarian exiles, with ten or twelve ominous exceptions, to return to their native country. This measure, it is asserted, was in the contemplation of the Government even before the arrest of Count Teleky, and had been initiated by the Emperor himself.

The *Ost-Deutsche Post* says:—"According to a telegram received from Pesth, dated the 8th inst., the Government resolved on the 7th to adopt a provisional electoral law for Hungary on the basis of the fifth article of the law of 1848." The same telegram states that the Hungarian Diet will assemble on the 2nd of April.

SWITZERLAND.

On the closing of the Session of the National Council on Dec. 24, M. Dapples, the President, made a speech, of which the following are the principal passages:—

Two years ago Switzerland was in the enjoyment of profound peace. On good terms with her neighbours, possessed of the friendship of the most powerful of them, she was looking to the future with confidence, when an event occurred which moved her to her inmost depths. The Government on which we placed most reliance followed on our south-eastern frontier a line of policy which disregarded our most undoubted rights; and when France seized on territories comprised in our neutrality, and necessary to our external safety, we were justified in considering it a diplomatic conquest as dangerous as a conquest by force of arms, since it leaves the field open to certain consequences which it facilitates and seems to prepare for. For a year we have struggled for the maintenance of our rights, with alternations of hope and despair which you will remember; but our efforts have only resulted in showing more clearly the gravity of our present position. If we only looked at the facts as they stand there would seem to be nothing but deception and discouragement. But is it in reality so? I do not hesitate to answer, No. If the annexation of Savoy has done us a great evil—if, after weakening our frontiers, it has surprised and troubled us, it has not been without doing us a great service, for it has clearly shown us the truth—truth with respect to France. We know now that the friendship of the powerful is of itself only a feeble guarantee; truth with respect to Europe, throughout which we have seen our cause gain the sympathies of Governments and peoples—sympathies which have remained barren as yet by the force of circumstances, but which none the less imply a recognition of our rights; truth with respect to ourselves—we now know the dangers which may threaten us, and we know that, without disavowing the friendship of any one, we can only rely on God and ourselves. We know henceforth what are the rights which our neutrality gives us and the duties which it imposes on us; we know that on it depend our union, our independence, our liberties; and we are ready to make for that neutrality all the sacrifices it may require of us. Our task is great, and the responsibility which rests on us would be very heavy if we had not at our backs a whole people that has never made a commercial transaction of a matter of national honour and dignity, and who know how to inspire us with great resolutions if our own patriotism is inadequate to supply us with them. I will not then say "courage"—courage has never been wanting in Switzerland; but I will say "confidence and perseverance." If any differences of opinion or interest have divided us for a time, let them be forgotten. Let us silence our quarrels; let us sacrifice, if necessary, our personal views; let us give the people an example of that union which is strength; let us join hands in a spirit of true brotherhood and sacred independence; let every one of our districts—the most distant as well as the most menaced, whether Geneva, Basle, or Chiasso—feel itself under the protecting shield of the Confederation.

RUSSIA.

Advices from St. Petersburg assure us that the Emperor of Russia has decided on granting to the kingdom of Poland a Constitution destined to secure the autonomy of that part of his States, which will be thus subjected to a special régime, similar to that of Hungary with regard to the empire of Austria.

General Major Ignatieff, the Russian representative in China, has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor, as an acknowledgment of the services which he has rendered in the Celestial Empire.

An article in *Le Nord* denies that any truth exists in the rumour which predicted that the French fleet before Gaeta would be succeeded by a Russian squadron, and maintains that public sentiment in Russia is favourable to the free development of the Italian movement.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The official paper of Constantinople publishes a translation of the report, addressed to the Sultan by the Grand Vizier, on the subject of his late tour of inspection in the European provinces. Among other matters the following paragraph occurs:—

Your Imperial Majesty will see by the document submitted to your high appreciation, and I affirm it in the most positive manner, that I found no trace of all that pretended system of persecution organised by Mussulman fanaticism against the Christians. The assassinations and acts of spoliation, an enumeration of which had been sent to certain friendly and allied Courts, almost entirely disappeared before the conscientious examinations of the tribunal.

His Highness goes on to say, that "the manner of farming the tithes, the organisation of the zapties, and the state of the roads afford to all subjects, without distinction of religion, just grounds of complaint;" and he adds, that the assessment of the property tax and of the indirect taxes requires to be reformed.

Saefeti Pacha, President of the Council of State, has been dismissed.

Prince Couza has communicated with the Porte, denying complicity with the Hungarians, and reiterating assurances of devotion to the Sultan. The ferment in the Principalities still continues, however.

Accounts from Teheran state that a report in the official journal confirms the intelligence that the expedition sent by the Persian Government against Mew completely failed, and that, in fact, all the Persian corps-d'armée was worsted in two battles by the Turcomans.

AMERICA.

SECESSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

The news from the United States is of the highest importance. South Carolina has declared herself no longer a member of the North American Confederation by a unanimous vote of her Legislature, 169 votes being recorded in its favour. The announcement of its passing excited great enthusiasm among the people of Charleston, and was

received with an equal amount of favour in such States as Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida. In some of these States salutes were fired in honour of the secession. The various representatives of South Carolina in the Congress at Washington had sent in a letter to the Speaker announcing the withdrawal of their State from the Union, but that functionary, who is a member of the Republican party, had refused to recognise the act of secession. Fort Moultrie, Castle Pinckney, the Custom House, Post Office, and Arsenal have been occupied by the State troops.

In the meanwhile some important discussions have taken place in the Legislature of South Carolina with regard to the appropriation of Federal property in the State, the arrangements of the post office, and the collection of the customs duties. Various propositions were made—none of them differing materially in principle. One authorised the Governor to make temporary regulations; another proposed to abolish the existing duties as far as the other Slave States were concerned, but to retain them in all other cases; and a third proposition had for its object the reduction of the duties to half their present rates. No immediate decision appears to have been arrived at; but, as commissioners were immediately elected for the purpose of treating with the Government at Washington, in all probability the *status quo* has been preserved. The news of the secession naturally occasioned great excitement at Washington—the business of Congress being for the time thrown into confusion. It is stated positively that the President sent a despatch to the officer commanding the forts at Charleston instructing him to surrender them if he was attacked, and that, in obedience to the spirit of these instructions, the officer in question had at once surrendered, giving up to the authorities at Charleston some 70,000 or 80,000 stand of arms.

The promptitude with which the President has yielded to the demands of South Carolina will, no doubt, provoke grave discussions at Washington, a wing of the Republican party, including, as it is said, Mr. Lincoln himself, being in favour of measures of coercion. The *Springfield Journal*, Mr. Lincoln's present organ, declares this armed secession is treason, and that the President will have no alternative but to treat it as such. On the contrary, the leaders of the Democratic party in New York have emphatically recognised the right of South Carolina to secede.

Mr. Seward, who, notwithstanding the election of Mr. Lincoln, may still be regarded as the virtual leader of the Republican party, has delivered a speech at New York on the Disunion question. He spoke in a conciliatory tone, and expressed his belief that the Disunion movement was losing strength. He appears to have taken, perhaps designedly, a more hopeful view of the prospects of the Union than the real state of affairs actually justified.

Later propositions submitted by Mr. Crittenden to the Senate Committee of Thirteen for the pacification of the country have been rejected by seven to five, the Republicans voting unanimously against it. Mr. Crittenden's scheme involved the legalisation of slavery south of 36 deg. 30 min. of latitude, the abrogation of the right of Congress to abolish the inter-State slave trade, and the exaction of an indemnity from the Free States for those fugitive slaves whose reclamation might be prevented by the Personal Liberty Acts or by rescue. This was regarded by the border Slave States as a moderate proposal. It is stated that two condemned war-steamer sold at Savannah had been bought by South Carolina.

A defalcation to the amount of \$30,000 dollars had been discovered to have taken place in the Department of the Interior at Washington. A clerk named Godard Bailey voluntarily informed the Secretary of the Interior that he had abstracted the missing amount principally in Missouri State bonds and coupons. These bonds were held in connection with the Indian Trust Fund, of which Bailey had charge.

INDIA.

INCOME-TAX AGITATION.

By the arrival of the overland mail we receive despatches and papers from Bombay to December 12; Calcutta, December 3; by telegraph from Bombay, December 8.

The income-tax agitation continues to be the chief feature of Indian intelligence. There has been a little rioting at Poona, Surat, and Bassein, but in Bombay the public peace has not been disturbed. The passive opposition, however, still continues, and trade in consequence continues very dull. At Surat it appears that on the morning of the 29th of November, between nine and ten o'clock, a mob of three or four thousand people assembled in one quarter of the city, declaring with much clamour that they would not pay the income tax, but would shut up their shops and suspend all business till the Act imposing the tax was repealed. They then began to close their shops, and sent messages to other parts of the city for aid and co-operation. Word was brought to the magistrate, Mr. Ravenscroft, of these illegal proceedings, and he, accompanied by Captain Hodgson, Superintendent of Police, and a large body of police, foot and mounted, immediately repaired to the spot, and in a very few minutes the rioters were dispersed, without any great violence having been used. Thirty of the ringleaders were taken prisoners, placed in irons, which the police had been ordered to bring with them, so that they might be handy for the occasion, and forthwith conveyed to prison. The same day all these men were brought up before Mr. Ravenscroft and tried for rioting. Five were acquitted for want of evidence; the remaining twenty five were convicted, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.

The reorganisation of the Bombay army has commenced, the regular and irregular cavalry having been placed upon a footing of equality. Instead of ten regiments there are now to be fourteen.

REFULSE AT SIKKIM.

A Bombay paper prints the following:—

By special telegram from Calcutta, dated the 7th, intelligence has reached us of the defeat of our force which advanced into Sikkim in October last. From twenty to thirty of the Sebundee Sapper Corps are reported killed, and the gun which accompanied the force has been lost. As it is not often that public attention is drawn to this remote district of the Himalayas, the following short account of British connection with it, and of the causes which led to the expedition whose disaster we now record, may prove acceptable to our English readers. In 1835 we wanted a sanitarium for Bengal, and offered to purchase Darjeeling from the Rajah, as we now offer to buy Farnsworth from the Ranees of Palgunge. He at first declined to take payment, but subsequently received 3000rs. a year, which was afterwards doubled. All went on well till he appointed a Dewan, who has been described as a bad specimen of Yeh. At his instigation regular raids were made into our territory, our subjects were murdered or carried off, and no satisfaction could be obtained. At last even the Superintendent of Darjeeling and Dr. Hooker were kidnapped, and were rescued only when we dispatched troops to their assistance. In consequence of this we ceased to pay the Rajah his allowance, and in 1850 annexed a portion of his territory. In 1853 he abdicated in favour of his son, and since then our relations with Sikkim have been at least peaceable if not friendly. But for some time back the old Dewan, having asserted his influence over the new Rajah, has resorted to the old custom of massacre and plunder. Warnings, remonstrances, and threats were alike in vain and unavailing to procure redress. Aggression on the part of the Sikkim State reached its climax, when, during the past rainy season in July last, a party of kidnappers suddenly crossed over into our territories, and, having cruelly maltreated a man and his wife, made a rapid retreat into Sikkim, carrying away as captives the two young children of their victims. Some of our ryots have also been forcibly carried into captivity by these marauding subjects of the Sikkim Rajah; and this insecurity of person and life has tended greatly to disturb the minds of our peaceable subjects.

Dr. Campbell, the Superintendent of Darjeeling, promptly demanded redress at the hands of the Rajah, the restitution of the children, and the delivery of the criminals to us. The children, after some little delay, were recovered; but the Rajah, yielding to the pernicious counsels of the Dewan, refused to surrender the guilty parties, or to restore the ryots carried off from British territory, notwithstanding that the justice of the Superintendent's demands was urged upon him by the Lamas and influential men of the country. In this state of affairs the Government, adopting the recommendations of the Superintendent, authorised the occupation of a further portion of the Sikkim territory in addition to that annexed on the misunder-

standing of 1850. Accordingly, in October, a hundred men of the Sebundee Sappers, under their commandant, Captain Murray, with one gun (an 8-pounder), marched down to a place called Goke, upon the confines of the British territory, ready to cross the Rummam River into Sikkim, should the Rajah decline to accede to our demands. This potentate still refusing reparation, the force above mentioned, accompanied by the Superintendent, crossed the river and entered Sikkim on the 1st of November last, hoisting the British flag under a salute of twenty-one guns, and taking possession in the Queen's name of a tract of country defined in a proclamation issued by the Superintendent to the Sikkim officials. It sets forth merely that, the Rajah having declined compliance with our just demands, we were going to occupy that portion of his country lying to the north of the Rummam River, and to the west of the Great Runjeet River; that we intended injury to no one, provided our force were not molested, in which case the people must expect the chances of war. The area of the newly-occupied territory is stated at about 550 square miles, and contains within its limits one of the loftiest peaks of the Himalayas.

All sorts of rumors and contradictory stories were current regarding Nana Sahib.

The notorious Maun Singh, dacoit and murderer, expiated his numerous crimes on the gallows at Etawah on the 26th. Previous to being turned off he exhorted the bystanders to unite and clear the country of the cursed British, and spoke at considerable length on this subject, so dear to his heart.

CHINA.

The following telegrams arrived on Thursday:—

"Shanghai, Nov. 21.—The intelligence from the north is unimportant. The treaty has been posted on the walls of Peking. The allied army and its headquarters reached Tien-Tsin on the 17th of November, where the Hon. Mr. Bruce will remain until the spring. Troops are leaving daily, proceeding down the river.

"The Russian Ambassador is established at Peking. Mr. Adkins is preparing for the reception of Mr. Bruce.

"A Chinese representative is to reside in England.

"All the important Chinese ports are open to trade.

"The rebels are again threatening Shanghai and Ningpo. The greatest alarm prevails.

"Canton, Nov. 29.—Permission has been granted to foreign steamers to trade in the inland waters.

"Foo-Chow-Foo, Nov. 22.—Civil disturbances are anticipated."

NEW ZEALAND.

Intelligence from New Zealand announces that a desperate engagement was fought at Mahoetahu on the 6th of November, resulting in the complete defeat of the natives and the death of their head chief.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE SICILIES—PIEDMONT.

An armistice upon a new basis has been concluded, at the instance of the French Government, between Gaeta and the besieging forces, in order to arrange for a surrender. It is stated that the French Government will withdraw the fleet, one vessel alone remaining off Gaeta until the 19th inst., to guarantee the execution of the armistice. If the endeavours for avoiding a further effusion of blood should fail, the operations of General Cialdini are to be vigorously supported by the Italian fleet. Our last accounts of the siege come down to the 5th inst., at which time the Sardinian fire was causing great destruction in the city, one shell having penetrated into the room above the King, and others had reached the central hospital. It can scarcely be possible that under these circumstances Victor Emmanuel has agreed to the proposed armistice (concluding on the 19th), unless on the express understanding that, in the event of the truce failing, he will meet with no further opposition from the French fleet. It is generally believed that in the event of the French fleet leaving Gaeta it would cruise for some time in the Adriatic.

At Naples the agitation approaches very nearly to disturbance in the streets, and calls for the immediate action of a strong and repressive authority. Disturbances are frequent in the provinces. A conspiracy, formed by the Bourbon party, but without any importance, has been discovered. Four Royalist generals have been arrested, with some agents of King Francis II., from Gaeta.

From different quarters the statement is made that a deputation from the partisans of the late dynasty in Sicily had waited upon Francis II., in Gaeta, for the purpose of inquiring what guarantees he would give of constitutional government in the event of his having Sicily restored to him.

The Prince of Carignan is to be Viceroy of Naples, now that Farini, through failing health and domestic affliction, is compelled to abandon his high office. Commendatore Costantino Nigra will have the title of Minister, in order that he may confirm by his counter-signature and be responsible for the acts of the Viceroy. The Count Ponza di San Martino and Signor Rattazzi have both refused this honour so thickly beset with thorns.

A new programme, emanating from the "party of action," has been circulated by thousands in Italy, in which the writers protest their devotion to King Victor so long as he is the defender and representative of unity, and is firm in his design of giving Rome and Venice to Italy.

The official *Gazette* of Turin publishes the electoral law for all Italy. It is only a modification of that of Piedmont, adapted to the altered circumstances. The number of deputies for the whole kingdom is fixed at four hundred and forty-three.

THE PAPAL STATES.

The *Patrie* asserts that M. de Merode, the Pope's War Minister, is about to resign; and that Mgr. Bella will succeed him. On New-Year's Day the Pope received the French officers. General Goyon made no political allusions in his speech on the occasion. His Holiness expressed his approval of the expedition to Syria and China. He also said, that in defending Gaeta the French fleet served a just and holy cause. The Pope avoided making any other political allusions, and said nothing concerning the Emperor Napoleon.

General Goyon has ordered the inhabitants of Frosinone to be disarmed. Placards have been posted on the walls of Rome exhorting the people to await the aid of the Sardinians.

The Neapolitan soldiers have received orders to return to their homes.

The French have discovered a dépôt of arms in the Foro Appio.

THE RUSSIANS IN CHINA.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, writing from Irkoutsk on the 30th of November, gives the following account of the part taken by the Russian Envoy, General Ignatieff, in the recent negotiations at Peking.

After narrating the advance of the allies and defeat of the Chinese, the Russian correspondent says:—

Meantime, our Plenipotentiary, General Ignatieff, had left Tien-Tsin and joined the army of the allies. Close on Peking, they were still undecided as to whether they ought to enter so populous a city or not. They had sent a summons to the Chinese before the 1st of October, threatening a bombardment in case of non-compliance. General Ignatieff pointed out to them on the map the residence of the Russian Embassy, and received the assurance that it should be respected. At the same time he obtained a safe conduct for Colonel Blazek, sent to inquire into the condition of our mission inside the besieged city.

The Colonel found all the members of the mission in excellent health, and informed General Ignatieff of the fact. At the same time the General received a letter from the brother of the Begd-Khan and from the high dignitaries intrusted with the Begd-Khan, who, in the name of the friendship which for two centuries has existed between China and Russia, entreated our Plenipotentiary to save China from perdition, and to undertake the office of intermediary between them and the allies.

Finding that the Chinese were inclined to enter into negotiations, the allies, according to the representations of our Plenipotentiary, consented not to enter Peking, not to burn the palace that had been sacked, and to encamp their troops on the walls of the town, on which they placed their guns, pointed towards the interior of the city. General Ignatieff entered Peking

in the first week of October with a suite of fourteen Cossacks, and alighted at the Russian Embassy. All the high dignitaries immediately waited upon him. He explained to them that they must at once accede to all the demands of the allies, to which they consented.

General Ignatieff explained to them that the barbarous treatment of the European prisoners was an infraction of the law of nations, and would call down upon them the vengeance of all Europe, even of Russia, despite the friendship of two centuries; and that to save China they must at once consent to every demand of the allies.

Thanks to the good offices of the Russian Plenipotentiary, the English Ambassador made his entrance into Peking on the 12th of October, was received in the Palace of Foreign Affairs, and, before leaving it, ratified the treaty and concluded a supplementary convention. On the following day the French Ambassador did the same.

When the treaty was concluded General Ignatieff gave a dinner at the Russian Embassy to the Plenipotentiaries of France and England and their suites. During the dinner a courier arrived quite unexpectedly from Irkoutsk, M. Schismareff, sent by Count Mouravieff-Amourski. The appearance of a courier from Siberia produced a great effect upon our guests, especially when they learnt that M. Schismareff had done the journey from Irkoutsk through Mongolia, in carriage and on horseback, in fourteen days.

CHINESE COOLIES AND COTTON.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Times* furnishes the following extract of a letter from Paris, dated the 31st of December, which purports to describe the views of the French Government as to the results to be obtained from the clause of the treaty with China legalising the exportation of labour. It is not known if the writer speaks from authority, and if his extremely sanguine anticipations and inferences are shared in official quarters:—

It will be seen by the late advices from China that this Government, in their treaty with the Chinese, have legalised the exportation of coolies.

This has been done, no doubt, in reference to obtaining a supply of labour for the cotton lands in Algeria.

The great immorality of the Chinese adults heretofore imported has caused the subject to receive a careful and earnest attention; and a plan has been proposed to import boys and girls brought out under the care of priests and Sisters of Charity, who, on receiving them in China, will cleanse and clothe them, and begin immediately a religious and secular education.

On arrival in Algeria, and being distributed among the planters, they will retain their teachers, and be ready with their little fingers to pick the cotton-balls as they ripen. The cultivation of the land is to be effected with steam-ploughs and horse-hoes, as in this way an enormous area can be kept under culture at a small expense. The yield of cotton (as in the United States) being limited only by the number of pickers, cotton may be thus grown at half the cost of the American, owing to the difference in the value of land and slaves.

In the year 1855 five bales of cotton were brought to Paris from Algeria, of the best quality, but the want of an organised system of labour similar to the slave system of the States caused the culture to be abandoned for a time. The great improvements in agricultural machinery have now removed this difficulty in part, and the importation of coolie children will supply all that is required to ensure success at the present time.

The children are to be apprenticed for twenty years, and to be always under supervision. When the picking season is finished, they are to be employed in raising their own food, and in weaving and making their clothing. At the end of their apprenticeship they can marry and become citizens, with an allotment of land, or return to China, as they please.

Su ha, briefly, is the scheme, which will no doubt be adopted by England, and carried out in British Guiana and the other cotton lands in her extended colonies. That there is not a scarcity of cotton lands in the world, the application of the steam-plough with the coolie emigration will soon prove. Within five years France and England will raise at least half the cotton they use; prompted not only by the independence that this supply will give them, they will be urged on to the work by the great missionary enterprise which it will inaugurate.

SCHAMYL AND ABD-EL-KADER.

The following correspondence has been exchanged between Schamyl and Abd-el-Kader:—

Salutation to him who has made himself illustrious among all men; to him who has extinguished the flames of discord, and who has torn up by the roots the tree of enmity which resembles the head of Satan. Glory be to God, who has granted to his servants his safety and the safety of the faith. Salutation to the intimate friend, to the just Abd-el-Kader. May the palm of glory and of honour flourish in thy throne. I have heard things which the ears and the entrails would reject; horrible things have happened between the Mussulmans and the Christians, who had formerly signed a treaty of peace with the Kalifs. My hair has stood on end, and the skin of my face, before smooth, has been wrinkled at the recital of the lamentable events of Damascus. I then said, evil has taken possession of the sea and of the Continent. No; it is not for the interest of God, but for their own, that the Mussulmans of Damascus have done those things. What bands had the Governors over their eyes? Why have they sworn in crimes? Why have they forgotten those words of the Prophet, 'He who shall commit injustice towards a Christian; he who shall refuse him his rights; shall compel him to do what is beyond his strength, and rob him of his property, I, says the Prophet, will be his accuser at the day of resurrection.' How fine is that expression! When I heard that you had spread out the wings of mercy and of kindness to protect the Christians, and that you had stopped those who sought to violate the Divine laws, I was not surprised that you gained the victory in the arena of praises. I was well pleased with you. May God be so also in the supreme day when neither money nor children will avail you in any way! You have caused the revival of the words of the Prophet sent among mankind by the mercy of God, and you have placed a bribe on those who violated his decrees. May God preserve you from him who crosses the limit which he has traced out! This is why I express to you my joy and my satisfaction in this letter, a bouquet of flowers taken from the garden of the poor prisoner among the infidels, by the decree of the Almighty God. SCHAMYL, the Stranger.

The reply of the Abd-el-Kader is as follows:—

Glory to God! Praise and salutation to the Prophet Mahomet and to all the Prophets! The poor before the rich; Abd-el-Kader, son of Moutrid-Din-el-Hossain, to the brother in God and dear Ulem Schamyl. May God protect us, him, and me, in the time of repose and in the hour of departure. May peace and Divine mercy be given to you! I have received your letter and your amiable praises. What we have done for the Christians was a religious duty and one of humanity. Our faith is the perfection of good qualities; it comprises all that is praiseworthy and all that ought to be done. All these good things must be with us like a collar round the neck. Injustice is blamed in all nations, and its dwelling is sullied. The poet has said, "When the day of temptation comes, men so lose their head that what is ugly he finds handsome." We come from God, and we shall return to him. We live in a time when a few of the faithful cause justice to triumph, and people have believed that Islamism inculcates cruelty, injustice, and exclusiveness. May God grant us patience! We knew that you were with the Emperor of Russia, and that he gave you a reception worthy of you. We know that you requested him to allow you to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Let us pray God that he may grant it. The Emperor of Russia is a great King, and he merits all the praises which have been lavished on him. I hope that the Sultan of Russia will shower down his benedictions on you as the Sultan of France has done on me. Let us hope in God, who is alone to be adored.

ABD-EL-KADER.

NEAPOLITAN WORSHIPERS.—The following extraordinary passage appears in the letter of the correspondent of the *Journal des Debats* from Naples:—"This is Christmas Eve. To-day the Virgin and Child are turned revolutionists. They have dressed up the Infant Jesus in almost all the manners, got up in the usual way as a Garibaldian; while the Virgin wears a tricolour robe over an immense ermine, and Joseph shows mustaches painted in imitation of Victor Emmanuel's. The ox and the ass are adorned with tricolour favours. The three Magi wear Bixie's uniform, and are attended by Majors in red blouse and tunic of the National Guard fashion. King Francis plays the part of Herod, and Joseph White Marie that of Herodias; and amongst the characters in the manger are recognisable Father Garibaldi, Bettini, and other Garibaldian heroes. Every year the Neapolitans dress up a manner, and they are in the habit of inviting a Zampognaro of the Abruzzi to perform a *neucaine* upon an old plaintive air, as old as Abel the first shepherd. Adieu, this year, to the traditional air! Women and children all join in calling for the Hymn of Garibaldi—that or nothing. In the house where I reside a coachman has set up a Madonna in a niche of the stable wall, before which he has played Garibaldi's hymn upon a pair of bagpipes. The woman servant upon the third floor has fixed an image of the Sacred Heart at the bottom of a sauce-pan, and at six o'clock she affords herself the same enjoyment. At seven my landlord, a Marquis, calls together a whole band of *ciggiannesi*, with harps, bagles, and other instruments, playing the cherished hymn before a holy manger, adorned with shepherds in silver, which he has erected in his bedchamber. At eight an English family has the hymn played by a Zampognaro; and then the ladies on the fourth floor, and a doctor on the fifth, and the curate and his niece on the second to the right, and my own valet de chambre—in fact, everybody mingles in the hymn, which is kept up till midnight. It is enough to sicken one of Garibaldi and of the independence of Italy."

IRELAND.

MR. JOHN MARTIN ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND.—Mr. John Martin, of 48 notoriety, does not, it seems, object to the principle of foreign intervention, but he would "not lift a finger to obtain a change of masters." Mr. Martin declares that "to bid the Irish people abjure foreign aid is to bid them abjure all hope of deliverance from the foreign yoke. We find that the principle of foreign intervention has been sanctioned by the examples of the English, the Americans, the Spaniards, the Germans, the Belgians, the Greeks, the Italians—all of whom obtained their deliverance with the help of foreign armies." Having got so far in his argument, Mr. Martin is obliged to make a damaging confession:—"Our aristocracy are nearly all attached to England, and our middle classes are, perhaps, the least patriotic in the world." In other words—and the admission is most important, coming from such a source—the discontented party is composed of the humble classes, those who are the ready victims of priestly intrigue and the arts of the demagogue.

MURDER IN MONAGHAN.—A barbarous double murder has been committed near Monaghan, in Ireland. Two brothers, named Shaw, who occupied a farm about four miles from that town, were found lying across their threshold shot dead. It is believed that no fewer than four persons were concerned in the crime; but at present no evidence exists which tends to bring to light either the murderers or the motive for the crime.

THE PROVINCES.

THE HOP INTEREST.—A large meeting of the landowners and hop-planters of the counties of Kent and Sussex was held on Tuesday afternoon at Battle, to consider what means should be taken to further the objects of the Association for the Total Repeal of the Hop Duty. The chair was occupied by Lord Harry Vane, and several resolutions were adopted consonant with the purpose of the meeting.

THE DEFENCE OF SCARBOROUGH.—Detachments of the Royal Artillery from Carlisle and Tynemouth have been engaged at the castle in dismounting the useless old guns, and making other preparations for the construction of new batteries for the defence of the town. The old guns were conveyed on sledges over the ice and snow to the pier, where they were shipped in a vessel specially sent for them.

ANOTHER GUN ACCIDENT.—A little girl has been accidentally shot near Bolton, the misfortune being brought about by the usual carelessness of leaving a gun loaded. A stonecutter named Roston, of Halliwell, near Bolton, had done this, and on Wednesday week a nephew, named Eilann, playing with the gun, let it off. Roston's little daughter was in the room, and the charge carried away the upper portion of her head, killing her on the spot.

ANOTHER MURDER BY A SOLDIER.—A cold-blooded murder has been perpetrated at the Military Barracks, Plymouth. Private Robert Hacked, of the 61st Regiment, a native of Queen's County, Ireland, was in No. 9 company's room on Saturday when dinner was being served. A pensioner named Purcell (also a native of Queen's County) came into the barracks to sell oil and blacking. This man began to tell Hacked some story about Delhi prize-money, in which the prisoner was interested; and, having no appetite for his dinner, he gave it to Purcell. Sergeant Jones, who was present, then said, "Who is that spinning a yarn about prize-money?" Purcell said, "It is I." Jones replied, "Yes, you would spin any yarn to get a dinner." Prisoner then said, "Thank'ee for speaking against a co'ny" (meaning one of the same place as himself), "and if it were not for getting fifty lashes I would strike you." About six o'clock the same evening Hacked entered the room with a rifle and shot the Sergeant dead. There were many soldiers present when he was seen to raise the rifle to his left shoulder, on which side he always fired. Two men made a snatch at it, but they failed to reach it in time. The murderer, who is said to have been drinking freely of late, is in custody. It is said that on Saturday night Hacked told one of the sergeants on duty that it was not much for him to be hung, as his grandfather was hung before him, but he hoped that if such was to be the case he should be hung in front of his regiment.

A STROLLING MUSICIAN FROZEN TO DEATH.—On Wednesday of last week the body of a man was discovered on a haystack in Broom-lane, Stockport-road. The deceased, whose name was Bartholomew McGrow, was a travelling fiddler. His hat and fiddle were found in Black Brook, which led to the supposition that he had fallen in himself, but had managed to get out again, and had crawled in a semi-unconscious state on to the haystack, where he was frozen to death.

FEARFUL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A terribly fatal boiler explosion occurred at the village of Linton, three miles from Malton, a few days since. On the farm of Mr. Holmes a steam thrashing-machine was in use. The frost had seized the feed-pipes, and the boiler consequently exploded. A son of the owner of the engine was killed on the spot; another man had his skull severely fractured as to render recovery completely hopeless; and four others are reported as greatly wounded and scalped.

THE SHEFFIELD ATTEMPT AT MURDER.—A man named English, a wheelwright, has been committed by the Sheffield magistrates to take his trial at the next York Assizes, on a charge of shooting, with intent to murder, William Crookes, an assistant gamekeeper, at Smithy Wood, Ecclefield, on the morning of the 15th of December. It will be remembered that Crookes was a fiddler as well as a gamekeeper, and was shot at through a window while at his work. Mrs. Crookes, who ran for a surgeon a few minutes after her husband was shot, deposed that she overtook a man in the wood, who, immediately on seeing her, crouched down. She was frightened, and screamed. She was sure the prisoner English was the man. It also appeared that the prisoner was three months ago convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game on the evidence of Crookes, and that he at that time threw stones at the prosecutor and threatened to knock his head off. For the defence witnesses were called to prove an alibi; but the Bench considered the case one for a jury. An application was made to admit the prisoner to bail, but was refused. A second man, named Ibbotson, was in custody, charged with being an accomplice in the crime; but the evidence against him was unsatisfactory, and he was remanded.

DEATH FROM STARVATION.—Three persons, says the *Manchester Examiner*, have died from starvation in the town of Denbigh, North Wales. "In a small dilapidated cottage, in Abraham's-lane, there lived a family of five—viz., mother, son, and daughter, and two children of the latter, upon the small pittance of 5s. or 6s. a week, earned by the son. The son being away with the Militia for a time even this pittance came to an end. The child, John Smith, seven weeks old, died on Sunday; the mother, aged fifty-six, died at eleven o'clock on Monday evening; and the daughter, Margaret Smith, died on Tuesday morning."

THE COVENTRY WEAVERS.—Remedial measures, with a view to affording permanent relief, have been actively discussed at Coventry; but of these none seem to have attained a practical realisation, with the exception of an organisation for aiding the ribbon weavers to "emigrate" to the cotton-spinning districts of Lancashire. Lord Leigh and Mr. Bracebridge have contributed to this object. About 700 persons have already been conveyed into Lancashire through this agency. Altogether, about 2200 persons have left Coventry for the Lancashire district, of whom it is estimated that 1500 are actually working in the trade, the remainder being principally children under twelve years of age.

SINGULAR CHARGE AGAINST A CLERGYMAN.—A confused charge against a clergyman was investigated at the Police Court of Rugeley on Thursday week. The Rev. A. Beaton, Rector of Colton, was the defendant, and Dr. John T. Harland, of Birmouth Lodge, the complainant. The charge was one of assault, alleged to have been committed on the 27th of December at Colton Rectory. The case was opened for the complainant by Dr. Hill, of the Oxford Circuit, who stated that some few years ago the rev. defendant became a widower, when Miss O'dham, of Birmouth Lodge, the sister-in-law of the complainant, amongst many other kind offices, took charge of the eldest daughter of the defendant. Some short time ago the defendant was again married, and he subsequently entertained an idea that Miss O'dham had alienated from himself and wife the affections of his daughter. On the 27th ult. the defendant wrote to Miss O'dham expressing satisfaction that his wife and daughter were as fond of each other as he could wish, and that the latter had not wholly lost her reverence for him. "Notwithstanding the miserable slanders which she had been doomed to listen to from the lips of herself and Mrs. Harland." The complainant then wrote to the defendant, suggesting that a meeting should take place. The defendant coincided, and proposed that Mrs. Harland, Miss O'dham, and the complainant should confront his daughter at the rectory. At this meeting the words "infernal liar" were said to have been used by the defendant, who also struck the complainant severely several times, and scratched and kicked him. The language used was not denied, but it was argued that the complainant was the first to take hold of the defendant's collar. The daughter of Beaton, a young lady between fifteen and sixteen years of age, stated that she did not see her father strike the complainant, but that she herself struck the complainant's ear, drawing blood. The defendant was fined £5, including costs, or in default two months' imprisonment.

SUSPICIOUS CASE.—Mary Last, aged fifty-four years, was found dead with a stab wound in the front of her neck, at her house in Bethnal-green a few days since. Her husband had left her a few hours before in bed. A table-knife was found by her side, and a large quantity of blood was upon her hands; but the handle was quite clean. Two rags were found upon the bed, as if bloody hands had been wiped upon them. Mr. John Gay, the senior surgeon of the Great Northern Hospital, made an examination of the body, in conjunction with two other medical gentlemen, and they are of opinion that the deceased could not herself have inflicted the injury.



THE SIEGE OF GAETA.—ADVANCED POST OF THE PIEDMONTSE AT SANTA AGATA.

THE QUEEN OF THE TWO SICILIES.

EVER since the Piedmontese troops have taken up a position at Santa Agata, the Neapolitan soldiers in Gaeta have concentrated their efforts in the endeavour to arrest the progress of the works of their besiegers, since the city is so dangerously commanded by some of the batteries that a nearer approach would be terribly destructive.

During a portion of each morning, however, it was noticed by the officers who occupied the extreme posts of observation that the fire from the Neapolitan batteries very considerably slackened, and it was some time before they discovered the cause.

They found at last that a young woman, dressed in a modification of the Calabrian costume, came every morning to the "Queen's" battery, and assisted in the firing. Sometimes she arrived in a coach, sometimes on horseback. This young woman, whose presence in the midst of the artillerymen seemed to recall their courage, and excite them to boiling point against their enemies, is no other than the Queen of Naples, who, dressed in the picturesque attire represented in our Engraving, seems to present to the troops of Francis II. the very genius of resistance. The King, on his part, is by no means inactive. Every morning he visits the batteries, accompanied by his Staff Major. Amongst the officers attending his Majesty are the French Colonels De la Grange, D'Equerville, De Mortilliet, besides several Captains and Lieutenants. Even the determined resistance already made at Gaeta is attributed to the hireling troops.

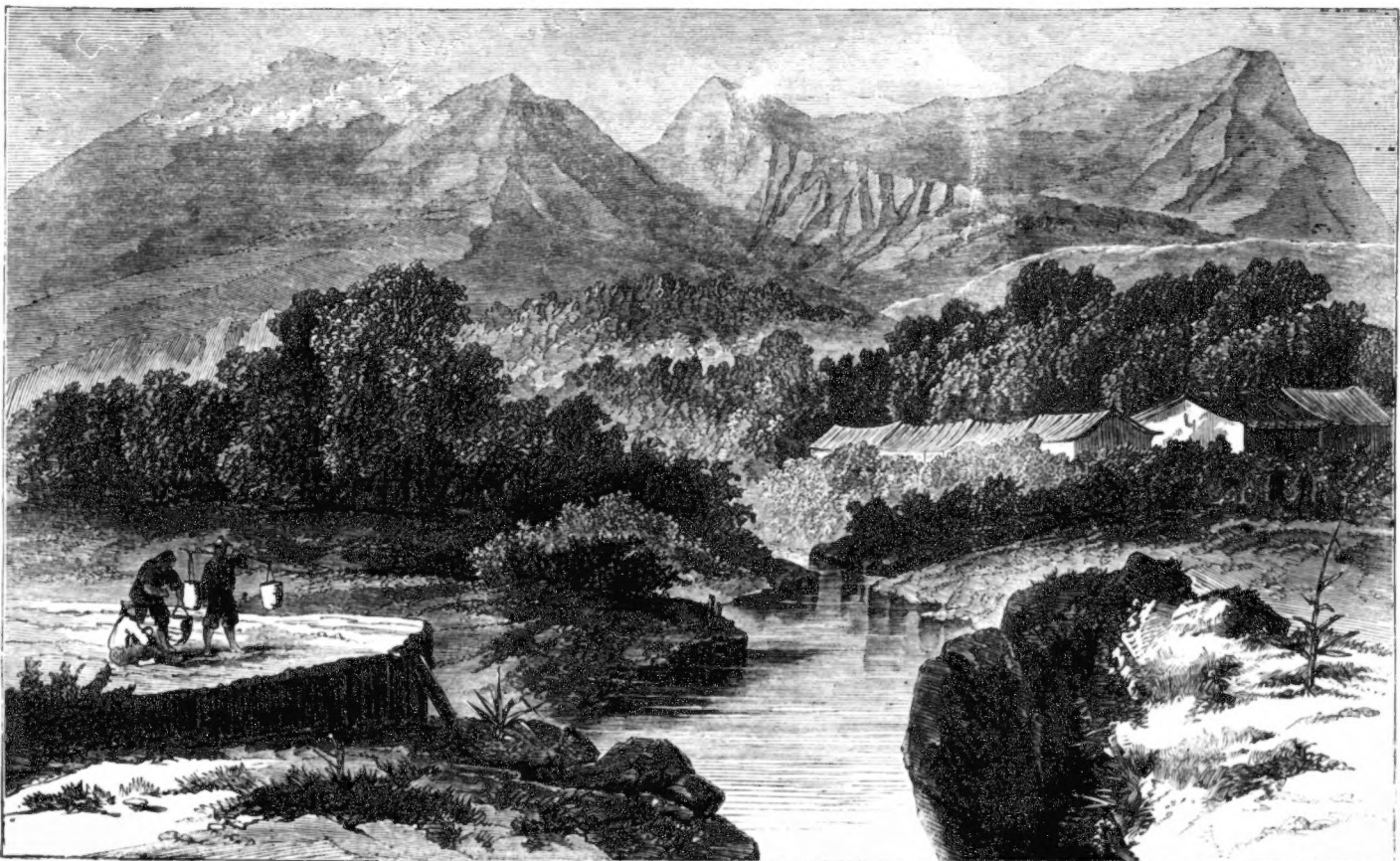
Meanwhile, the Bersaglieri remain at their advanced post in the building by the old monastery at Santa Agata, once used for the winepress.

Notwithstanding its elevated position, it is studded with olive-trees; indeed, the whole country from Naples to Rome abounds with them, and this deserted old "pressoir," near which the Piedmontese have placed their batteries, forms a point of observation for one of the most picturesque corps in the world.

These Bersaglieri seem able to live anywhere, whether it be on the top of a mountain like Santa Agata, in a hole dug in the ground or in a house in the suburbs. They have most extraordinary vitality, and, indeed, they have needed it; for during days of heavy rain they have had no other shelter than the ruinous old building which has allowed the water to filter through a hundred fissures, and even to flood in at the very doors. The rest of the Italian troops seem unwilling to expose themselves to the inclemency of the weather, and prefer seeking such shelter as promises a greater degree of comfort; but there sit the Piedmontese in their quarters in the old ruined winepress, telling stories of San Martino and Palestro. It would appear that there has been no regular bombardment of Gaeta by the Sardinian troops. There has been a good deal of firing, no doubt, but nothing amounting to a regular bombardment, between which and the ordinary interchange of projectiles during a siege non-military spectators are not always able to discriminate. Gaeta continues to get rid of its superfluous troops. On the 26th ult. 4500 men left for Terracina. It is said that there are case-mates for 12,000 men at Gaeta, but it is doubted whether there are so many now left there, and that 5000 or 6000 are amply sufficient as garrison. The place is already provisioned for seventy days, but measures are being taken to supply it for six months. The general tenor of the advices from



THE QUEEN OF NAPLES IN CALABRIAN COSTUME.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)



THE VILLAGE OF POKE-FELUM, NEAR HONG KONG.

the scene of action induces a belief that the siege must be a protracted one if the Sardinians be compelled to confine their operations to the land side.

POKE-FELUM, NEAR HONG-KONG.

OUR Engraving represents one of those Chinese villages which serve to show the nature of the country with which we have just concluded such terms as we are justified in believing will exercise an enormous influence on Eastern civilisation. The place is only about four miles from Hong Kong, and is about to be connected with the town itself by a Government road which will extend to a village beyond where spacious docks are already in course of construction, if one is not already completed. Poke-Felum is likely to become a summer residence for Europeans, since it is cooler on that side of the island, and our recent demand of the peninsula of Kowloon will largely increase the British settlement. By the fourth article of the treaty Tien-Tsin becomes an open mart for trade, bringing us into direct communication with Peking; while Kowloon, which forms the northern shore of the harbour of Hong-Kong, and is directly opposite the island, will soon cease to be what it now is—a refuge for pirates, cutthroats, and the worst of the Hong-Kong population, and doubtless be used as a healthy station for our troops and a useful addition to our commercial facilities.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

WE continue to receive mournful accounts of the disasters occasioned by the late storms. The screw-steamer Kingston, bound from Gottenburg to London, foundered at sea with all on board. An American ship, the Bostonian, has been wrecked on the coast of Guernsey; the commander and some of his crew, with several other shipwrecked mariners whom the ill-fated ship had previously taken on board, perished with the vessel.

A Spanish vessel, the Dulce Nombre de Jesus, bound from Havannah to Bristol, struck on the Morte shore, near Morthoe, on the North Devon coast, and became a total wreck. The captain and three of the crew were drowned.

The collier-brig Lovely Nelly, belonging to Seaham, bound to London from Sunderland, was driven on the Whitby Sands and became a total wreck, the whole of the crew perishing except one—a boy. A quantity of wreck was also seen off this section of the coast, which has led to a belief that some fatal catastrophe happened during the night. On the Ross Sands, just above Holy Island, the Timbuctoo, of Scarborough, was totally lost, with, it is feared, the whole of the crew. A Hanoverian vessel was also carried ashore at Eadnell, in the same neighbourhood, and a belonging to her perished.

The loss of the Golden Star, 1198 tons, and the melancholy fate of the captain, his wife, and most of the crew, near Bannow Bay, has excited a painful interest. She had 3750 bales of cotton on board, from Mobile; the current carried in the ship towards Carnivan Head, where she struck on the rocks. This took place about ten o'clock; the ship struck on the rock stemforemost. They then tried to send a line ashore to the people assembled there, but failed, as the current carried it along the beach. A line was then thrown from the shore by a rocket, which failed in reaching the ship; but they seemed to believe it had, as they did not make any further attempts to send a second. In about an hour afterwards the ship went to pieces.

The captain, his wife, stewardess, and eighteen of the crew perished, and the remainder of the crew (seven) were saved. Their escape was truly marvellous. When the forward part of the ship broke away from the stern portion of the ship, it swung round and broke all to pieces. The next two seas burst the starboard side of the stern part of the ship open, which was hanging on the rocks and swept out about 200 bales of cotton, which, for about five seconds, formed a sort of bridge between the wreck and the shore, and, by running and jumping from one to another, the survivors succeeded in getting ashore.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

A LARGE number of railway accidents, happening almost simultaneously, have inaugurated the new year. On the London and North-Western two disasters have occurred within the last few days. One, the first, took place on Thursday week, one of the carriages of the Scotch night express having gone off the line shortly after passing Tring. No fatal results attended this mishap. Another accident, on Friday evening, was more serious in its character, two lives being sacrificed and many persons sustaining injuries more or less severe. It seems that the express train, which left Liverpool at 5.15 p.m., and was due at Euston station at 10.50, pulled up rather late at the ticket-platform at Camden-town. The train was on the point of starting forward to Euston-square, when it was found that some of the carriages were missing. An engine was started to search for the missing carriages. They had not, however, to proceed far, for on nearing Primrose-hill tunnel the carriages which had become disconnected were found smashed to pieces. The two last carriages and the break-van had broken away; the former lay broken into fragments, while the break, although it had left the rails, remained on the permanent way, and was uninjured. Moans and shrieks emanated from the wreck, and the efforts of the men were at once directed to rescue the passengers. Two were killed and several others much injured.

Earlier in the day on which this disaster occurred two women were drowned near Hereford, in consequence of an accident to the express from Shrewsbury. This accident arose from the breaking of an axle. The train ran off the line into a meadow inundated by the swollen River Lugg, and the women were drowned before they could be rescued from the wreck of the carriage in which they had been travelling. The guard narrowly escaped by swimming, and a lady and her child were marvellously rescued. The other passengers were saved.

On the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway two accidents have taken place—the first, at Sittingbourne, to the express leaving Pimlico on Friday evening week; the second, within a few miles of the scene of the first, to the express leaving Pimlico on Saturday evening. After leaving the Rainham station there is a sharp curve in the line just before arriving at the junction of the Sheerness and Sittingbourne line with the London, Chatham, and Dover, and it was at this point that the first accident took place. The train was composed of a guard's break-van, two third, two first, and two second class carriages, another guard's van being the last. After the train had arrived within about a mile of this station the tire of one of the wheels of the first guard's van, next the engine, flew off; this immediately threw the break-van off the line, dragging with it a third-class, and also a first-class carriage following. The third class carriage was the one which received the greatest injury, but fortunately it had only three occupants, one of whom, a warrant officer, was killed. The other passengers escaped with a few bruises. The second accident was caused by the engine running off the rails. The two stokers were killed, and the engine-driver mortally injured. The line for some distance was torn up in all directions, and the carriages following in the wake of the engine were crushed. It is a matter of congratulation that the train was principally composed of empty carriages, which were being taken on to Faversham for the night, there being but three passengers, who escaped unhurt.

In addition to these five accidents, one occurred near Essendine, on the Great Northern, yesterday week, and another on the Great Western: they were both unattended by loss of life. Of all these seven accidents not one has been a collision. The fracture of iron, either of axle or tire, or the carriage or carriages having left the line from defects in the permanent way or rolling stock, have been the cause. There appears little doubt that the extreme cold we have experienced exercised an injurious influence on the metal.

LORD BROUGHAM AND AMERICAN SLAVERY.—To a curious letter from Boston (U.S.), inviting him to a convention on the anniversary of the death of Captain Brown, Lord Brougham has replied as follows:—"I consider the application is made to me as conceiving me to represent the anti-slavery body in this country; and I believe that I speak their sentiments as well as my own in expressing the widest difference of opinion with you upon the merits of those who promoted the Harper's Ferry expedition, and upon the fate of those who suffered for their conduct in it. No one will doubt my earnest desire to see slavery extinguished; but that desire can only be gratified by lawful means—a strict regard to the rights of property, or what the law declares to be property, and a constant repugnance to the shedding of blood. No man can be considered a martyr unless he not only suffers, but is witness to the truth; and he does not bear this testimony who seeks a lawful object by illegal means. Any other course taken for the abolition of slavery can only delay the consummation we so devoutly wish, besides exposing the community to the hazard of an insurrection, perhaps less hurtful to the master than the slave. When the British emancipation was finally carried it was accomplished by steps, and five years elapsed between the commencement of the measure in 1833 and its completion in 1838. The declaration of the law which pronounced a slave free as soon as he touched British ground (erroneously ascribed to the English courts under Lord Mansfield, but really made by the Judges in Scotland) may seem to be inconsistent with the principle now laid down. But I am bound to express my doubts if such a decision would have been given had Jamaica touched upon the coasts of this country. It is certain that the Judges did not intend to declare that all property in slaves should instantly cease, and yet such would have been the inevitable effect of their judgment in the case supposed, which somewhat resembles that of America."

THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S DEATH.—At one o'clock on the morning of the 1st the physician in attendance upon the late King of Prussia deemed it to be his imperative duty to send a telegram to the Prince Regent at Berlin. This telegram arrived at the Prince Regent's palace about two o'clock. Immediately afterwards a report of the contents of the Potsdam despatch was sent to all the Princes of the Royal family then in Berlin, and "we state with pleasure," says the official journal of Berlin, "demonstrating as it does the kind womanly feelings of a son of the Royal house of England, that the first who arrived at the palace of the Prince Regent was the Princess Frederick William, who hastened thither on foot and through the darkness of the night, though the snow lay deep upon the ground and the weather was piercing cold. Prince Frederick Charles, finding himself too late for even the second train, drove to Potsdam in a sleigh."

ARRIVAL OF THE MELAZZO WITH THE ENGLISH GARIBALDIANS.—The Melazzo arrived at Falmouth on Saturday, having on board 231 English Garibaldians. She had been twenty-one days from Naples. She had put into Gibraltar for provisions, and remained there three days. Seventy volunteers were left behind at that port. Most of the volunteers landed at Falmouth. The men complain of the quality of provisions supplied them on board.

THE FRENCH BISHOPS.—A pamphlet entitled "Rome et les Evêques" has been published at Paris. The author draws a comparison between the Popes of the first era of Christianity, who strictly confined themselves to the exercise of their evangelical office and spiritual jurisdiction, and those of the second era, who aspire to a universal theocracy, and obtrude themselves in temporal affairs. The author regrets to be compelled to state that the Bishops and the superior clergy have followed the Papacy on this path, but that it would be unjust to believe that all Bishops consider the maintenance of the temporal sovereignty as essential for the freedom of spiritual ministry and security of conscience. He then affirms that a certain number of Bishops profess a contrary opinion, and states that two distinct opinions exist among the clergy—viz., the official view of the question, which the clergy must publicly profess at the risk of incurring disgrace, and the secret opinion, which in reality is the most disseminated among the lower order of clergy, but which they are obliged to conceal in order to escape the stigma of Gallicanism, a term now more compromising than that of heresy.

LORD PALMERSTON AT SOUTHAMPTON.

LORD PALMERSTON visited Southampton, to lay the foundation-stone of the Hartley Institution, on Tuesday. The High-street was crowded with people, and the houses were profusely decorated. The noble Premier was received with immense enthusiasm. He was met at the Guildhall by the Mayor (Mr. R. Coles) and the other members of the Corporation, and conducted by them to the site of the proposed building. The 2nd Hants Volunteer Rifles, headed by the band of the corps, formed a part of the procession. The noble Lord was loudly cheered as he passed along. He walked slightly lame, owing to an accident which happened to him while shooting at Broadlands on Saturday last. The ground on which the building is to be erected is in High street, immediately opposite the Audit House, and includes the site where the residence of the wealthy and eccentric Mr. Hartley, who left the great bulk of his fortune to build and endow the institution, formerly stood.

An address was presented to the Premier by the Corporation in praise of his foreign policy. His Lordship said in reply:—

It has no doubt been the object of the Government of which I am a member to promote, as far as the influence of England could promote, those principles of political and religious liberty which are so much cherished by us at home (cheers). We have seen a great revolution—a revolution in the good sense of the word—taking place in that country which you mention in your address; I mean in Italy. We have the satisfaction of seeing the unity of Italy being daily consolidated, and I trust that that country, and that great people who inhabit it, are destined to enjoy a share of those blessings which a constitutional Monarchy has conferred on the people of this happy land.

His Lordship was then shown a design of the intended structure, and, having received from the Mayor a mallet and silver trowel, proceeded to lay the foundation-stone in the ordinary manner. The noble Lord having declared that the stone was rightly and fairly laid, a prayer was offered up by the Rev. Geo. Bradshaw. On the conclusion of the ceremony Lord Palmerston reviewed the volunteer force of the town in their new parade-ground.

A déjeuner was subsequently given at the Audit House, the Mayor of Southampton presiding.

In reply to the toast of his health Lord Palmerston said, amongst other things:—

The autumn which has lately passed, and the present winter, have produced three events, as remarkable, perhaps, as any which have ever been crowded into the same space of time, and in three different quarters of the globe. You, Mr. Mayor, have adverted to the events which have just taken place in Asia—I mean the occupation of the Chinese capital by the allied English and French forces. If any man twenty years ago had told you that we would have English and French troops in Peking he would have been laughed at as a visionary. That, however, has been accomplished, and I trust that the accomplishment of that event will lead to the establishment of those permanent relations of peace and commerce with China which will be equally advantageous to Europe and to the remotest part of Asia. You have been pleased to advert to the complete manner in which the expedition was fitted out. The great credit of that is due not only to my right hon. friend Mr. S. Herbert, the Secretary of State for War, who devoted the whole energies of his mind and the whole powers of his intellect to promote everything connected with the advancement and the welfare of the service, but also to his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, who has devoted his attention to and made great improvements in the service of which he is himself so distinguished a member. Credit is also due to the energetic administration of Lord Canning in India, from which country a great part of the troops were dispatched. Our success is partly owing also to the ability, to the decision, and to the vigour of our gallant commanders, both by sea and land, to these distinguished men, General Sir Hope Grant and Admiral Hope, and to the firmness of our Ambassador, Lord Elgin. No military operations attempted in the face of such natural difficulties were ever attended with more complete or more rapid success. You have been pleased to advert to the events which are now passing in Italy, and you have said truly that the moral influence of England has not been without its effect on those events; and my noble friend Lord J. Russell, who has been the faithful exponent of the generous feeling of the country and the able organ of the Government of which he is so distinguished a member—my noble friend has taken good care that it should be known in every part of England what are the wishes and intentions of the British Government, and what are the sympathies and feelings of the British people. That which has taken place in Italy is one of the most remarkable, and I think will be in its consequences one of the most important, events recorded in modern history. We see a people who for a long course of centuries have been split up and divided into different small communities, many of which have for a long course of years been the victims of miserable, blind, and unenlightened Governments—we see them rising with one common sentiment, determined henceforth to unite; and I trust that, whatever the temporary difficulties they may experience, it will in no long interval of time be converted into an accomplished fact. When we know the great natural resources of that peninsula—when we see the extent of its seaboard, the number of its excellent harbours, the natural productions of the soil, and, above all, when we remember the intelligence of the people, who, notwithstanding the crushing despotism under which many of them have so long laboured, but who have, notwithstanding, produced a great number of men distinguished in every branch of intellectual improvement—I say, when we look to these things, when we advert to what the Italians have been in former periods of their history, when Rome was the mistress of the world and became the cradle of reviving intelligence, I say we are justified in hoping and believing that Italy is yet destined to play a great part in the affairs of the world. Not a conquering and aggressive nation—because its circumstances preclude its falling into these vicious ways—but as a centre of enlightenment and as a place where mind may be cultivated to the utmost possibility of human intellect. The Italians are obtaining that which I believe to be the best possible form of political government—I mean a Constitutional Monarchy. Now, the third event, although not already accomplished, I fear is too far advanced, which is taking place in another quarter of the globe—I mean in America. We have too much reason to fear that that Union, which has now existed not much less than a century—which has conducted to the happiness and prosperity of our kinsmen on the other side of the Atlantic—is likely to be broken and disrupted. It is not our business to express in regard to that event any other feelings than this—that we would wish from the bottom of our hearts that those disputes, whatever they may be, may be settled by an amicable understanding, and that, whether that union is destined to remain unimpaired, or whether the States are determined to separate into different communities, our fervent prayer is that the result may be brought about by amicable means—and be it for maintaining the Union, or be it for dissolving the Union—and that the world may be spared the afflicting spectacle of a hostile conflict between brothers and brothers. I cannot refrain from saying one other word in reference to what I saw this morning—I mean that gallant display of the volunteer force of this town. We had, no doubt, before the beginning of this movement, an admirable regular Army; we had a most excellent Militia—but we wanted a third portion of our national defences. The public spirit, the patriotism, and the courage of our population have now supplied that defect, and it is really marvellous to see how rapidly these volunteer corps have acquired the habits and manoeuvres, and the precision even, of the regular troops of the Line. It is true that they have been instructed all over the country by those who have stood in the dangers of war, men experienced in military discipline, and who have, therefore, been able to instruct and bring them to perfection in a short time. But it is, nevertheless, a source of pride and satisfaction to this country, because we know that there are spread over the land broadcast the seeds of military discipline and military efficiency; and, if ever we should have occasion to arm ourselves and stand forth to do battle in defence of our homes, we know that there will spring up from the earth, as it were, not merely men with brave hearts and minds, prepared to encounter the dangers and difficulties of war, but likewise men who, retired for the moment into private life, have yet passed the best years of their existence in military achievements, and who are, therefore, able at the shortest notice to bring into a state of efficiency and discipline those who are ready to place themselves under their command.

Lord Brougham took advantage of the ceremony to write a letter to Lord Palmerston, eulogistic not only of Mr. Hartley and his noble bequest, but also of the volunteer movement. He argues that the armed state of the world renders it necessary that both shopkeepers and agriculturists should "cultivate the field of knowledge in arms."

ANOTHER MONSTER HOTEL.—It is proposed to establish a large metropolitan central hotel, similar to the Great Western Railway Hotel, Paddington, the Victoria, Euston station, and the Westminster Palace Hotel, in the neighbourhood of St. Clement's, in the Strand, and close upon the spot now occupied by Dance Inn, one of the most extensive of the old inns of London in its bygone coaching days. It will have the effect of clearing away Holywell-street and Wyck-street, and of widening the Strand at that point, and so render that thoroughfare of one uniform width from Charing-cross to Temple-bar, in conjunction with the metropolitan improvements.

POLITICIANS ON THE PLATFORM.

MR. HORSMAN.
MR. LAYARD.
MR. BLACK AND MR. MONCREIFF.

On Thursday week Mr. Horsman met another portion of his constituents. This assembly, which was composed chiefly of non-electors, was a very large one. The hon. member having addressed them at some length, the meeting, after some discussion, resolved that the views and conduct of the hon. gentleman were, in their opinion, so much at variance with the Liberal constituency of the borough that he no longer represented them in Parliament. Mr. Horsman, as on the previous occasion, declined to resign his seat.

Mr. Layard has addressed his constituents on the subject of ragged schools. We need only say that he exhibited a thorough sympathy with that great work of social reform.

On the occasion when Mr. Moncreiff and Mr. Black appeared a few weeks ago on the platform at Edinburgh they narrowly escaped a formal vote of censure. But this censure was only suspended for a time. A crowded open meeting of the citizens has now unanimously pronounced it—a meeting presided over by the Lord Provost.

MR. SIDNEY HERBERT.

THE Right Hon. Sidney Herbert has, in an address to his constituents, the electors of South Wilts, announced his retirement from the representation of their interests in the House of Commons—a duty he has discharged uninterruptedly for twenty eight years. Mr. Herbert is about to be elevated to the peerage under one of the titles (Lord Herbert of Lea) attached to the earldom of Pembroke, to which he is at present heir presumptive, being elder son to the eleventh Earl of that name. The new Peer retains his office of Secretary for War; but, in consequence of his translation to the Upper House, Earl De Grey must resign the post of Under Secretary for that department, since the War Office must be represented in the House of Commons.

THE NEW LONDON RAILWAYS.

HITHERTO the rail can hardly be said to have forced its way into the metropolis. Certainly it has not penetrated the principal quarters, or become the means of locomotion and traffic between one chief point and another. At length, however, the charm appears to be broken. The Metropolitan is pushing its molelike course, picking up the Western and Northern lines, right into the City. Several railways have just effected a lodgment within a quarter of a mile of Buckingham Palace over the first railway-bridge in the metropolis. Other railways will shortly pour out their passengers at Charing-cross over another railway-bridge in the course of construction; while a third partnership of companies, including the new direct line to Dover, is about to cross the Thames above Blackfriars-bridge. By its junction with the Metropolitan it will give us the first line right through the hitherto impassable barriers of London and the Thames.

What is further proposed, and what the coming Session will have to decide upon, is this:—The Metropolitan and Eastern Counties propose to join forces and meet at Finsbury-circus. There are also bills for bringing the North London line from Kingsland to the immediate neighbourhood of Broad-street, and so enabling the residents of all our northern suburbs to come by rail into the City, without being daily caught as it by a strong west wind, and carried miles out of their course through Bow and Stepney. It is also proposed to make a line from Broad-street to the river at Irongate-wharf. An underground railway from Regent-circus, to join the Metropolitan at Holborn bridge, is projected; an extension from the Metropolitan to Bayswater and Kensington; and a line from the Charing-cross Railway back again across the river to a terminus in the City. Besides these more important propositions, many branches and extensions are proposed, in order to complete communications and to open up portions of the neighbourhood of London not hitherto befriended by railways. The Regent's Canal, long threatened with the loss of its turbid waters, will sooner or later yield its bed to the universal agent, and add largely to the London railway system. But by far the most important proposition to come before Parliament this Session is the Thames Embankment, from Westminster to Blackfriars-bridge, with its covered railway, its road, and its promenade under trees.

ALL SOULS' COLLEGE, OXFORD.—An inquiry was opened before the Archbishop of Canterbury on Tuesday morning, which involves important principles. The main points involved are whether the warden and fellows are entitled in their elections to consider the moral and social character of the candidate, as well as his intellectual ability; whether secrecy should be permitted at the elections; and whether the examinations should be solely in modern history, and jurisprudence, or in classics also. The inquiry is likely to last some time.

THE CANADA EXTRADITION CASE.—The friends of freedom in Canada are bestirring themselves on the fugitive slave extradition case. They have held a great meeting at Toronto, at which there was a very strong expression of opinion against the surrender of the unfortunate man. One of the speakers gave an account of some important conversations which he had held with Lord Ashburton, tending to show that fugitive slave cases of all kinds were expressly exempted from the extradition treaty. The question will, no doubt, be ultimately referred to the home Government.

RUSSIAN SERFAGE.—The *Nord* speaks of an important question as being in contemplation in Russia—namely, the recalling to their regiments the soldiers who are on unlimited furlough. The object is to have ready, at the period of the promulgation of the abolition of serfdom, a disposable force to maintain order, and prevent complications. This measure, which, as it may be readily seen, would merely have a local character, must necessarily entail great expense. However that may be, the Russian Government will not delay the publication of the great act so impatiently looked for, and the Imperial manifesto which is to announce this social revolution is to appear definitively on the 3rd of March, that is to say, a fortnight later than the period previously fixed for it.

LETTER OF GARIBALDI.—The *Amico della Libertà*, a Reggio journal, publishes a letter addressed by Garibaldi in November last to some Neapolitans who urged him at once to return to Naples. It entirely confirms the general rumour that the ex-Dictator intends to resume his sword in the month of March. Garibaldi says:—"Why do you needlessly call for me? Allow me for a few months that rest of body and mind which I require, as a preparation for the new labours, the new fatigues, and the new sufferings which await me. But all this is nothing: it is Italy that is in question, and to Italy my life is consecrated. Rome and Venice expect my aid. They belong to Italy, their citizens are our brethren, and they yet groan under the hard yoke of Austria and of ——. Let me recruit myself for the great storm which threatens. Let reason and fraternal philanthropy second your love for me. I will be with you in four months. You shall see me again, but then I shall require a proof of your love. If you really love me, which I do not doubt, tell me, my dear fellow-citizens, follow me, when we shall unite to deliver our brethren of Rome and beautiful Venice. Then, contented and united, we will constitute an Italy one and independent under the sceptre of the King *gallant uomo* Victor Emmanuel. Adieu! At the end of March we will embrace each other."

THE POPE AND HIS "ELDEST SON."—A letter from Rome states that when General de Goyon, on New-Year's Day, solicited the Pope's blessing for the French army his Holiness volunteered to comprise the French Navy, which was "defending the holiest of causes." Seeing the Pope thus travelling out of the programme, General de Goyon asked him whether he had not a blessing for the Emperor, who had done so much for religion in China and Syria? The Pope, apparently taken quite aback by this appeal, said hurriedly, "Oh, yes; for what he has done, is doing, and may do—I hope so."

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.—The *Scabian Mercury*, published at Stuttgart, gives the following as the words addressed by the Emperor Napoleon III. on New-Year's day to the Swiss Envoy, M. Kern:—"It is time to put an end to these misunderstandings. Many things have been wrongly interpreted. No Power has a greater interest in the maintenance of Swiss neutrality than France. Neighbours should try and live in harmony." To this M. Kern is said to have replied:—"I should be happy to see the good old relations re-established in the interest of the two countries. Switzerland attaches the highest importance to preserving the interests of her neutrality."

Literature.

Legends and Lyrics. A Book of Verses. By ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER. Vol. II. Bell and Daldy.

The first series of Miss Procter's "Legends and Lyrics" being in its fifth edition, this second volume can well dispense with any recommendation of ours. It comes to an eager public, who will receive it at the hands of a favourite singer with thankful appreciation. Miss Procter is the lady-laureate of the school of Resignation, and until (if ever) she falls into the error of working a successful vein too hard, or straining its mannerisms too far, she will be welcomed, loved, and honoured by that very large class of lady readers who accept with satisfaction—and, indeed, cultivate as a pious amusement—the resigned view of life. "My confessor," said Virginia, "told me that it was the will of God I should go, and that life was a trial." When a very little boy we remember being greatly annoyed by this sentence in "Paul and Virginia;" and we are still of opinion that the philosophy of "resignation" is only making a virtue of necessity, and that crowning oneself with flowers before self-immolation is a very bootless and only half-sincere sort of thing. But this is by the way. Miss Procter has done literature an essential service in making it plain that there is a large public for writers of verse who are above falling into the temptations of the spasmodic school. These "Legends and Lyrics" are totally free from sensual and cities, from simile-hunting, and from what we may call spangle-writing. Spangle-writing is the characteristic of the weaker and later breed of spasmodics, whose verses are full of gems, dew, trees, blues, greens, sparkles, tears, loves, stars, skies, ripples, rivers, evers, nevers, and all that. Miss Procter says right out what she has to say, and leaves her reader to look for the poetry in the story, or in the thought of what she says. Not that she disdains illustration and metaphor. She is sometimes very happy, if not very original, in the use of them. Here is an instance from

LIGHT AND SHADE.

What seems so dark to thy dim sight
May be a shadow, seen aright,
Making some brightness doubly bright.

The flash that struck thy tree—no more
To shelter thee—lets Heaven's blue floor
Shine where it never shone before.

Thy life that has been dropped aside
Into Time's stream may stir the tide,
In rippled circles spreading wide.

The cry wrung from thy spirit's pain
May echo on some far-off plain,
And guide a wanderer home again.

This is good writing; and so is the following:—

EXPECTATION.

The King's three daughters stood on the terrace,
The hanging terrace so broad and green,
Which keeps the sea from the marble Palace,
There was Princess May, and Princess Alice,
And the youngest Princess, Gwendoline.

Sighed Princess May, "Will it last much longer?
Time throbs so slow and my heart so quick.
And oh, how long is the day in dying?
Weary am I of waiting and sighing,
For Hope deferred makes the spirit sick."

But Princess Gwendoline smiled and kissed her:—
"Am I not sadder than you, my sister?
Expecting joy is a happy pain.
The Future's fathomless mine of treasures,
All countless hordes of possible pleasures,
Might bring their store to my feet in vain."

Sighed Princess Alice, as night grew nearer:—
"So soon, so soon, is the daylight fled!
And oh, how fast comes the dark to-morrow,
Who hides, perhaps, in her veil of sorrow
The terrible hour I wait and dread!"

But Princess Gwendoline kissed her, sighing:—
"It is only Life that can fear dying;
Possible loss means possible gain.
Those who still dread are not quite forsaken;
But not to fear, because all is taken,
Is the loneliest depth of human pain."

We may, in passing, take the readiness of Princess Gwendoline to lay down the law and indulge in very large propositions and patronising behaviour as the text for a word about what we think to be a fault of tone in Miss Procter's writing. There is something amusing in that forward little chit, Gwendoline, the "youngest sister," "smiling" and "kissing" her elders, and gravely saying what she does of her own condition—a condition all but impossible in any shape to so young a mind, and quite impossible (we need not say) in any shape but that of absolute insanity. If the poor girl had spoken truth, she would necessarily have been imbecile. Miss Procter, like the majority of our lady writers (a point we have noticed before), is too apt to assume a dictatorial tone, in demanding our assent to the largest and most momentous statements.

In the first "legend" in the book—a legend of exceeding beauty—there are some blemishes which we noticed when we saw it in print a year ago. Was it too much to expect that they should be removed by this time? Let our readers look at the following (now) unpardonable lines:—

And yet

We lost it in this daily jar and fret,
And now live idle in a vague regret.
But still our place is kept, and it will wait,
Ready for us to fill it, soon or late:
No star is ever lost we once have seen,
We always may be what we might have been.

Do they suggest anything? Let us see. Anybody may say "jar and fret," and anybody may say "vague regret"—such phrases are common property; but when they follow each other, rhyming with "yet," we have, surely, too palpable a reminiscence of Tennyson:—

Love is hurt with jar and fret,
Love is made a vague regret,
Idle habit links us yet.

Again, the line

No star is ever lost we once have seen

is, we think, too strong a suggestion of Browning's

Oh, never star
Was lost here but it rose afar!

and the next line, and, indeed, the whole thought of the passage, remind one of a well-known sonnet of Mrs. Butler:—

Say thou not sadly "never," and "no more,"
But from thy lips banish those falsest words;
While life remains that which was thine before
Again may be thine. . . .

We are not bringing any charge of plagiarism. A well-read critic is slow to do that. Things of this sort may happen in the heat of composition; but twelve months is a long time for them to lie undiscovered. If we had written such a passage, and it had appeared in print, with whatever applause, we would rather sacrifice the whole poem than allow anything so ill-managed to be issued again, deliberately, in a volume. A writer whose first volume has gone through five editions can well afford to be told of a slip or two; and if Miss Procter contemplates a "career" as a poetess there are no points on which she so much stands in need of respectful admonition as the two we have mentioned—the danger of running off into mere "reminiscence" and the assumption of a degree of "insight" unwarranted by her experience of life. We do not expect that her

dicta (which are very numerous) should be confined formally within the bounds of her actual experience; but that they should bear to it some such relation as that of paper money to bullion in a solvent state of the public exchequer, and not such a relation that a run for gold would have disastrous consequences.

Homely Hints from the Fireside. By the Author of "Little Things," &c. Second Edition. Edmonston and Douglas.

This is one of a class of books which is rapidly increasing. If the reader can imagine Mr. Arthur Helps very much evangelised, very much milk-and-watered, and very much old ladyfied, he will have an idea of what it is. For the sort of public to whom it appeals it is really a very good book; and that it contains agreeable matter we will make clear to the meanest apprehension by this little bit about

NEWSPAPERS.

What an incessant source of worry the newspapers are in most houses, the ladies generally putting them out of sight as litter, the gentlemen tormented by not finding them when wanted, the postman blamed for not bringing them in time, the servants blamed for not bringing them upstairs, or for taking them down stairs, and woe betide the unlucky wight who is convicted of having torn up or sent away a newspaper that had not been read or was intended to be kept. If in the varied contents of a newspaper there are frequent and serious sources of annoyance or distress to many, their very existence seems a constant source of worry to all.

Cate's in Search of a Cook. With Divers Recipes and other Delectable Things Relating to the Gastronomic Art. James Blackwood.

This book contains excellent advice. "If you have large landed property and keep a steward or agent at the head of your concerns, overhaul his books and call him to a strict account in every way." It also contains some correct opinions—"Men whose avocations confine them indoors to the labours of the pen or pencil generally require the assistance of the brain and mind in their pursuits." It also contains some touching expressions of feeling—"My own beloved Amelia—she rose with the lark, and made the necessary arrangements for the day, giving the requisite orders in the culinary department." That it contains receipts for cooking the titlepage informs the reader. If he remembers Mr. Churchill's "little dinner" in "Kavanagh," he may guess the rest; and if, like Mr. Churchill, the late Mr. Leigh Hunt, and the present Mr. Reviewer, he would rather read about a good dinner than eat one, let him buy this manual. But we warn him not to read more than one of its dinners at a time. We took the whole fifty-three at a sitting, and the "British College of Health" (to whom we always apply when indisposed) states that it will not be answerable for the consequences.

LIFE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The *New York Times* publishes the following extract of a private letter from a lady in South Carolina, received in that city:—"I fear that secession and revolution are with our people foregone conclusions; that we have gone so far that retraction and recession are impossible, and that civil war, with all its consequent horrors, is already upon us. I shudder for the wives and mothers, sisters and babes, of South Carolina as I contemplate the immediate future of the State. You need not be surprised at any time to see me and the children in your midst, for no argument could induce me to remain an hour longer than I should be compelled if the worst should come to the worst. You may imagine, dear uncle, our situation, but you can never realise it in its fullness. Already we tremble in our own homes in anticipation and expectancy of what is liable to burst forth at any moment—a negro insurrection. Could you see the care and precaution displayed here by the proprietors of the negroes, not only planters, but others, you would not for a moment envy our possessions. Not a night passes that we do not securely lock our field servants in their quarters; but our most loved and valued house servants, whom in ordinary times we would trust to any extent, are watched and guarded against with all the scrutiny and care that we possess. Our planters and owners of slave property do not allow their servants to have any intercourse with each other, and the negroes are confined strictly to the premises where they belong. We are all obliged to increase our force of overseers to prevent too free intercourse even among our own servants. The negroes feel and notice these new restraints, and naturally ask, 'Why is this?' But it is unnecessary for them to ask the question, for they all comprehend the cause as well as we who owe them. They have already learnt enough to give them an idea of what is going on in the State and nation, and this knowledge they have not gained from Abolitionists, as some suppose, but from the conversation of their owners indirectly held in their presence. They have already heard of Lincoln's election, and have heard also that he is for giving them their liberty, and you may imagine the result. You have heard that our servants all love their masters, and their masters' families, and would lay down their lives for them—that the coloured race in the South prefers slavery to freedom—that they would not be free if they could, &c. That is but the poetry of the case; the reality consists in sleeping upon our arms at night, in doubly bolting and barring our doors, in establishing and maintaining a sufficient patrol force, in buying watchdogs, and in taking turns in watching our sleeping children, to guard them and ourselves from the vengeance of these same 'loving servants'—a vengeance which, though now smouldering, is liable to burst out at any moment, to overwhelm the State, in spite of the palmetto flags or State precautions. You at the North are not the only ones who are suffering financially by this new panic. The planters among us are really suffering from the depreciation of their property. Already negroes are not worth half price. No one dares to buy a servant, fearing lest he, in doing so, should be introducing upon his plantation one tainted with the idea of freedom."

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE FRENCH COURT.—The official list of the diplomatic corps accredited to the French Government has just been distributed, as it is every year at this season, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. On this occasion the diplomatic corps was waiting with great impatience to see if the legations of the countries annexed by Piedmont would still appear in it. They do not, however, and the legations of Naples, Tuscany, and Parma have disappeared from the official roll. It is known that the Duke of Modena has had no representative in France since the revolution of July. What has especially produced a strong sensation is, that Monseigneur Meglia, the auditor, who has represented the legation of the Roman States since the departure of the Nuncio on leave of absence, Monseigneur Sacconi, does not appear in the list as *Chargé d'Affaires*, but merely as *Chargé des Affaires*.

FENELON'S NICK.—A death that sounds almost historical occurred last week—that of the Countess Dowager de Verdonnet, née Marie Suzanne Laure de Salignac de Lamotte Fédon. This lady had attained the age of eighty. She was twelve years of age when the Reign of Terror commenced. She was at Lyons during the terrible siege of that place. Her father and her brother perished on the scaffold in Paris. Her uncle was the famous Archbishop of Cambrai.

THE ALPINE TUNNEL.—Within the last few weeks, the works of the tunnel through Mount Cenis have been suspended—some say, owing to want of funds, while others assert that unexpected difficulties of execution have appeared. This latter seems to be the more probable supposition; for the Sardinian Government regard the opening of this tunnel as an event of great international importance, and are not likely to allow the works to languish from want of funds, although doubtless they have a good deal to do at present with their money.

DENMARK AND SCHLESWIG.—A statement is in circulation through the German and Belgian papers to the effect that the English Cabinet had dispatched to the Prussian Government a note in reference to the position of the Germanic Confederation with regard to Denmark and Schleswig, denying the right of the Confederation to interfere in the internal administration of the Duchy. The statement, however, does not seem to rest upon very reliable authority.

TAXED WIVES.—In some official correspondence respecting our colony of Natal, just published by the Colonial Office, a tax of 7s. a wife is alluded to as in operation in that colony; so that a Kaffir having six wives has 42s. per annum to pay to Government. The tax was originally imposed by order of the Lieutenant-Governor "as paramount chief over the natives," or father of his country; but was afterwards fixed by a law of the Legislature.

THE LABOUR OF THE LEGISLATURE.—The *Times* has a specific for lightening the labours of Parliament:—"Of the five days of its meeting every week Parliament only devotes two to the transaction of the business of the Session. Let three nights be substituted for two, and we shall find the length of the Session shortened, the practice of sitting far into the mornings discontinued, and the business of the State got through without over-fatiguing the bodies and wearing out the minds of her servants."

DEATH IN THE SNOW.—The *Chambéry* journals record a melancholy event—the death in a snowstorm, at a place called Le Desert, near that town, of a woman named Dumont, and her daughter, the latter aged about ten years. The two left the village of Arith for Chambéry, but never reached their destination, and on being sought for were both found dead in the midst of snow at some distance from each other at the place above mentioned.

THE BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

RESUMING our visits to the theatres, to which we were bound in accordance with the agreement made last week, we found ourselves at the time-honoured portals of DRURY LANE, where Christmas fun and uproar have greeted the ears of our forefathers in the time when the pantomime was a festivity in no wise to be neglected amongst the season's amusements. It is at least gratifying to discover that the reputation of Old Drury has been sustained, and that an entertainment as mirth-provoking as those which shook the sides of our forefathers has been provided for the benefit of their less laughter-loving children. Whenever we see the name of Mr. E. L. Blanchard as the author of the piece we settle down in our seats and prepare for an extra expansion of the chest; and although "Peter Wilkins; or, Harlequin and the Flying Women of the Loadstone Island," is an innovation upon the old pantomime, inasmuch as it opens with an extravaganza, the audience have reason to be glad of a change which enables them to appreciate the brilliant play of fun and the capriciously-constructed plot. We do not intend to give any description of the piece; it is sufficient to say that it abounds with humorous fancy and strange incident, while the beautiful transformation scene is worthy of Mr. Beverley. We need say no more.

At the HAYMARKET the taste which distinguishes Mr. Buckstone's arrangements is everywhere manifest. In the beginning of the evening we had the satisfaction of applauding Miss Fanny Stirling, who comes to the stage with the prestige of a name which, we believe, she will support with no ordinary credit. This pleasant introduction over, we were prepared for "Queen Ladybird and her Children; or, Harlequin and the House on Fire." This piece, which is Mr. Buckstone's own, is full of beautiful effects, from the exquisite scenery which displays an April day in the country down to the Honeysuckle Bower and Queen Ladybird's Palace, which last is one of the most delightful results of light dress and painting which we have ever witnessed. The pantomime, which concludes the piece, is full of more than the usual funny expedients, and brings the entertainment to a thoroughly orthodox conclusion.

At the ADELPHI, Mr. H. J. Byron has indicated the extent of his power for punning by not being able to keep a joke even out of the title of the piece—"Bluebeard from a New Point of Hue." When we say that Mr. J. L. Toole is the Bluebeard of nursery history, and that our dear familiar Fatima finds a representative in the acting of Mrs. Mellon (Miss Woolgar), while Shaccabac, Bluebeard's Majordomo, loses nothing either of fun or dramatic importance in the hands of Mr. Paul Bedford, we need say little more of the success of the piece.

At the PRINCESS'S, Mr. Byron's untiring humour has produced "Robinson Crusoe; or, Harlequin Friday and the King of the Cannibal Islands;" and the piece must be pronounced one of the most entertaining of the season. Not only are the dresses and scenes effective—the very name of the Princess's would be some guarantee for effective scenery and admirable "making up"—but the action of the extravaganza is just what a Christmas piece should be; it is lively, bustling, and sparkling with puns and jokes from beginning to end. The scenes are, some of them, very fine, and the "Gambol of Zephyrs in the Lucid Labyrinths of Liberty Hall" introduced a charming and graceful ballet.

At the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE an unusually classic subject has been treated with that combinative ability and facility of invention which Mr. William Brough always brings to the most out-of-the-way topics. "Endymion; or, the Naughty Boy who Cried for the Moon," is a burlesque sustained as much by the refinement with which the story is wrought out as by the unflagging round of puns, jokes, and parodies which keep the audience laughing. This really charming burlesque is well acted by a company who seem to appreciate the parts which have been assigned to them, and fully merits the applause with which it has been received.

At the OLYMPIC, "Timour the Tartar," by Mr. John Oxenford and Mr. Shirley Brooks, is full of such wit, fun, and allusions as the names of the authors must inevitably suggest; while, with Mr. Robson, Mr. Emery, and the beautiful scenes with which the stage was dressed, a success could scarcely be looked for in vain.

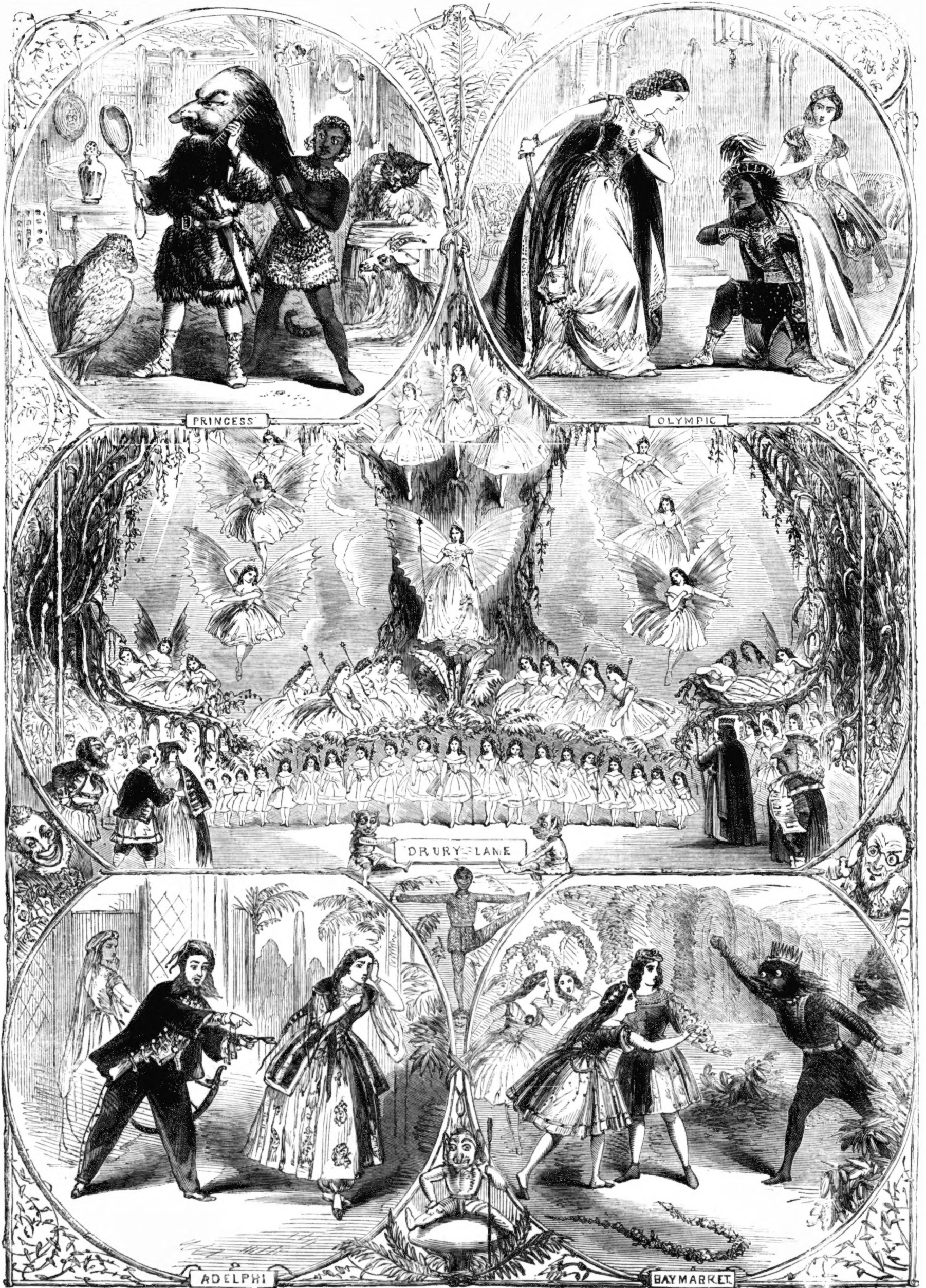
The pretty little STRAND, with Mr. H. J. Byron as an ally, has shown its usual consummate taste in "Cinderella; or, the Lover, the Lacquey, and the Glass Slipper." Everything in the piece seemed adapted to the stage with a completeness which left little to be desired. The abandon with which the author showers puns, the facility with which the performers enter into the whole spirit of the affair, and the exquisite effects introduced upon the compact little stage, carry on the piece to everybody's satisfaction. It is this sense of completeness which is, after all, the great charm of an entertainment, and at the Strand it is combined with the happy efforts of a talented company, who seem to go in for the fun of the thing with those who come to laugh and to listen.

QUEEN CHRISTINA'S HUSBAND.—There is a curious anecdote in a letter from Rome to the *Monde* touching Queen Christina of Spain and the Queen Mother of Naples. The Pope wished to have their Majesties to dinner on his fête-day, in the hope of making them good friends. Queen Christina stipulated, however, for the presence of her husband, the Duc de Rianares, to which the dignity of the Queen of Naples would not consent. The *Monde* tells us that, in order to "meet the difficulty," his Holiness invited five Cardinals and the diplomatic corps. We are not told whether the five Cardinals and the Ambassadors filled up the vacancy caused by the absence of the Duke and his better half, or whether, his Grace being present, he was held to be sufficiently sweetened by this mass of eminency and excellency for presentation to the fastidious fugitive from Gaeta.

ENGLAND PORTRAYED.—Through the columns of the *Patrie* we learn that one M. Aurele Kervigan has written a book bearing the title of "England As She Is; or, the Result of Sixteen Years' Observation of that Country." According to M. Kervigan we are in a most awful state, and our hour is near at hand. The British Constitution, he says, is admirable on paper, but inefficient in practice; our commercial instincts and pursuits, though productive of public wealth and comfort in private life, are nevertheless a source of demoralisation. Civil war also permanently exists in England, from the want of a powerful central Government; and England is the country in the world where there is the least personal liberty. And all this absurdity the *Patrie* indorses and chuckles over!

QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.—A correspondence between Lord Lyons, our Minister at Washington, and the late Assistant Secretary of State, relative to the late visit of the Prince of Wales to the United States, has been published. Her Majesty, through Lord Lyons, expresses her thanks for the cordial reception given to the Prince by the President himself, and by all classes of the citizens. The letter speaks of the sentiments of esteem "which her Majesty and all classes of her subjects entertain for the kindred race which occupies so distinguished a position in the community of nations." The Queen requests the President to make known generally to the citizens of the United States "her grateful sense of the kindness with which they received her son," who is "deeply impressed with all he saw during his progress through the States, but more especially so with the friendly and cordial goodwill manifested towards him on every occasion by all classes of the community." The reply of the late Assistant Secretary of State expresses the gratification the President has felt at learning how correctly the Queen appreciated the spirit in which his Royal Highness was received throughout the Republic. "Her Majesty has justly recognised that the visit of her son aroused the kind and generous sympathies of our citizens, and, if I may so speak, has caused an almost personal interest in the fortunes of the Royalty which he so well represents." The President trusts that this interest towards the future Sovereign of Great Britain is at once an evidence and a guarantee of that consciousness of common interest and mutual regard which have in the past and will in the future bind together more strongly than treaties the feeling and the fortunes of the two nations which represent the enterprise, the civilisation, and the constitutional liberty of the same great race.

MORTALITY AND THE WEATHER.—The intense cold continues to exercise its deadly effects on the ill-clad, ill-fed of the poorer classes, and on the suffering and debilitated of all ranks. In the last two weeks of the departed year, and the week terminating on Saturday last, the deaths were respectively 1269, 1407, and 1707, according to the metropolitan returns. The true value of the excess will be better appreciated when it is stated that the corrected average for last week would be 1388—that is to say, deducting this number from 1707, 319 over the usual rate of mortality.





CARRIAGE—DIDO DIRECTING THE EQUIPMENT OF THE FLEET. - FROM THE PICTURE BY J. M. W. TURNER IN THE GALLERY AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

"DIDO AT CARTHAGE."

It would be difficult to assign a worthier place to this great picture of our great English artist than that which it occupies between those two Claudes which it so much resembles in the beauty and grandeur of its conception. Looking at the scene all glowing with the golden atmosphere of the old Tyrian colony, the tradition of the rise of the Carthaginian empire assumes historic proportions, and we see Dido, fleeing from the murderer of her husband and his brother, landing with her attendants and the faithful Tyrians who accompanied her on the African coast, and there purchasing from the Phœnician colonists that piece of ground where she built Betzura, afterwards altered by the Greeks to Byrsa. Then grew Cœthon, the maritime city, built, according to Dionysius, sixty years before Rome, and afterwards the Magara, that lovely suburb with the great luxuriant gardens.

Both this picture and the one called "The Sun Rising in a Mist" were bequeathed by Turner to the nation.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1861.

THE DISUNITED STATES.

To use the language of a contemporary journalist, himself enrolled under a Star-spangled flag, and that a cotton one, in all probability the "banner of the United States will rapidly be shorn of half its insignia—the most magnificent temple of democracy on which the sun ever shone will be left asunder." The temple was not so well built as could be desired, it seems. The original cement (the blood shed in the war of Independence) stands good, indeed—there is none better for the consolidation of peoples; but the bloodshed of oppression has different qualities. Mix that with the cement that binds a state, or a federation of states, together, and the tendency to liquefaction which in old times was thought to belong to the blood of murdered men will be found highly dangerous to the edifice, whether it be a temple of democracy or a fortress of despotism. The process is virtually the same in despotic Austria and in democratic America. The house must at some time be found divided against itself; and thus, while in the citadel of Austria we see a dozen rents and fissures, in the democratic temple a split appears imminent.

It has, in fact, begun, with the formal secession of South Carolina from the Union. The palmetto flag invites us to salute it as the symbol of an independent sovereignty; and, as a great deal of cotton is grown beneath that banner, as well as a great many niggers whipped under it, and as in this country cotton and concord express the dearest wishes of our hearts, there can be no reason why we should not accept the invitation. It is confidently anticipated that before the end of the present month five or six other Slave States at least will cast in their lot with South Carolina; and then we shall see at her Majesty's Court a new Envoy, the representative of a federation of Anglo-Saxon States composed of "chivalry" for the most part, but disposed, and perhaps obliged, to extend that barbarous system of slavery to suppress which we spend millions of money and the lives of not a few good seamen.

For the position taken by the slaveholder now is, not that his "peculiar institution" ought not and cannot without danger be disturbed; he demands that the whole Union should support it. Slaves are to be slaves all over the Union; runaways are to be sent back or paid for. A compromise which provided that slavery should be perpetuated south of 36 deg. of latitude, and obliging the North to carry out the Fugitive Slave Law, is not listened to; and Mr. Seward's proposal that negroes claimed as fugitive slaves should have the benefit of a judicial inquiry as to whether they are really runaways, or only kidnapped free men, is derided. In short, the South insists that slavery shall not only be tolerated in "the most magnificent temple of Democracy on which the world has ever shone," but that the altar shall be a whipping-block, and the High Priest an overseer.

The alternative of the situation, so far as we may judge of it, is unpleasant: on the one hand, concession to the slaveholders; on the other, civil war. The former result appears most probable at present. It will be a pity if the temple is further defiled by the chivalry and those who sell men; but there does appear a disposition on the part of the Republican leaders to keep the fabric together by admitting a little more of that which most weakens it. Moreover, there appears amongst the people of the Free States an indisposition to believe in the possibility of a rupture, which marks their sense of it as disastrous to themselves. The dollar is moving in the breeches-pocket of the North; "conciliation" is in every Republican mouth; and between conciliation and concession there is only an interval of palaver. Much concession we do not apprehend; but the South has been deferred to more than enough already, perhaps; and even a little concession will discredit the North without by any means ensuring the conclusion

of the difficulty. The danger of civil war is far less probable, we think, though that does not altogether depend on the first result of the movement. Mr. Buchanan has declined to coerce the rebellious in South Carolina, and thus encouraged the rebellion. It is not certain that, had he dispatched a squadron to Charleston, and kept the forts there in the name of the Federation, the secession fever would have been allayed; but, if the Slave States are not disposed to bow to the rot in his hands, they are far less likely to submit to coercion by Mr. Lincoln. This gentleman is said to have declared that secession is treason, and that he means to put it down. Such an attempt—and the American President has absolute power in such cases—would certainly involve the whole country in war. It is doubtful whether he would dare assume so terrible a responsibility. But supposing a Slave State union established before Mr. Lincoln comes into power, and by him recognised, the slavery question must still be a source of difficulty between the rival confederacies, especially in the first rancour of separation. Slaves will still escape into the Free States. Will they be returned or paid for?

Every way the movement is most deplorable, and every way it threatens disaster. What does the slave himself think of it? We cannot suppose him ignorant of what to a less stupid and more energetic race would be watched as an opportunity. We hear that he is watched very narrowly at present. Many of those gentlemen who, when they assemble in "mass meeting," talk so vigorously, sleep on their plantations not without dread. Heaven forbid that anything like an insurrection should take place! Better concession, which, after all, we believe, will discreditably close this disgraceful chapter in American history.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE NAME OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES has been entered on the boards of Trinity College, Cambridge, and he will come into residence in *statu pupillari* on the 18th inst.

MR. BREWSTER, who was Attorney-General under Lord Aberdeen's Government, shot off his arm accidentally at Mr. Bernal Osborne's seat, near Clonmel, where he is visiting.

GENERAL DE LAMORICIERE will be relieved from the obligation of his parole in six or eight months, when he will return and resume the command of the Papal Army, in company with many officers who shared his toils in the late campaign.

THERE IS NOW MUCH TALK OF FRIENDSHIP between Paris and St. Petersburg. The ribbon of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour sent to General Ignatieff will, it is said, be the signal for several Russian decorations for high French functionaries, and it is even rumoured that, "if peace should continue, the Czar may come to Paris in May."

GRACE DARLING'S FATHER, who has passed the greater part of his long life upon the outer Fern Island (Northumberland) as keeper of the lighthouse, has been pensioned off by the Corporation of the Trinity House, London.

THE RECORDS OF THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE COMPANY show no less than twenty-two serious accidents from street slides in the space of the last fortnight, including three broken legs and two spinal concussions.

THE CANADA CLUB entertained the Governor-General of Canada last week at the Albion Tavern. A numerous and distinguished party assembled to meet his Excellency.

THE NEW LAW FOR THE PRESS IN SPAIN will be as follows:—Absolute suppression of preventive seizure; submission to the ordinary tribunals of charges of insult and calumny, and of offences against religion, the throne, the dynasty, and the person of the Monarch. A jury will be called in for all other offences.

SIX NEW GUN-BOATS have been ordered to be built in the sheds at the gun-boat yard, Haslar.

THE FRENCH ARMY lost during the year which has just expired two Field Marshals, Prince Jerome Napoleon and Marshal Reille, seven Generals of Division, and six Brigadier-Generals.

SIR PETER FAIRBAIRN, who had, in 1858, the distinguished honour of entertaining her Majesty the Queen, died yesterday week at his residence, Woodsley House, near Leeds.

TWIGG, who was sentenced to death for the murder of his wife at Bilston, was executed at the county gaol at Stafford on Saturday.

THE COURT FOR DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES, which commences its sittings on the 18th inst., has 187 cases set down for hearing.

A MONSTER ENTERTAINMENT was given at Crewe last week by the directors of the London and North-Western Railway Company to their workmen, on the occasion of the completion of a new workshop. About 3000 persons sat down to tea.

ANOTHER PIEDMONTESSE GUN-BOAT has been seized at Galatz, the *Patrie* says, and its cargo confiscated. It consisted of twelve rifled 4-pounders, 16,000 muskets, and ammunition to match.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED NEW CAVALRY BARRACKS at Colchester will be commenced in April. In the course of the year the camp will cease to be a station for dépôt companies, but will be converted into a station for full regiments of the line.

NAVAL OFFICERS AND SEAMEN belonging to the ships of war at Plymouth are daily instructed in the use of the Armstrong gun on board the *Foudroyant*, which has four of those pieces mounted.

MARSHAL NIEL has gone on a "military mission" to Italy. Bullier's correspondence states that he is already there, studying the defensive and offensive capabilities of the country, just as he did before the war in 1859.

THERE IS NO TRUTH in the statement which has appeared in some legal journals to the effect that Mr. Phinn, Q.C., is about to proceed in a judicial capacity to Madras. The appointment was offered to, but at once declined by, the learned gentleman.

BALTIMORE LETTERS state that the Dominican Government had taken forcible possession of the Guano Islands in the Caribbean Sea belonging to America.

A PARTY OF THIRTEEN OR FOURTEEN GENTLEMEN, well-known musical amateurs, of Bristol, left that city on Saturday week for Bath, and performed in the streets, disguised in shocking bad garments, in aid of the Risen Colliery Relief Fund. The idea turned out a complete success.

"A LADY" sends a guinea to a London Police Court poor-box, saying her servants dress so "remarkably fine" that she is afraid of offering them their usual Christmas-box of half-a-guinea each, and consequently sends it to the poor instead.

THE ELEVATION OF LORD ELGIN TO A MARQUISATE is talked of.

THE DRIVER OF THE MAIL-GO between Glasgow and Ayr was recently frozen to death on the road.

THE POPE has, it is said, recently disposed of some fine works of art, from the Vatican, to the Emperor of Russia.

LADY CRAMPTON (late Miss Balfe) was presented to her Majesty the Empress of Russia on Thursday, the 27th ult., at St. Petersburg, and was most graciously received.

MR. BONTAM, A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH LEGION, has been killed at Naples by the accidental discharge of a revolver which a Mr. Thorn was examining.

MESSRS. ROTHSCHILD are said to have declined advancing to the Emperor of Morocco a loan sufficient to pay the indemnity due to Spain.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES of various kinds and designs were started in 1860, the amount of whose proposed capital was no less than £17,230,000. Only one-fourth have been withdrawn from the Share Market; the rest are in prosecution.

TERESITA, THE DAUGHTER OF GARIBALDI, is about to be married to M. Lucien Bianchi, a professor at Sienna.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, who raised his cane to a girl in the Cardiff Workhouse, and threatened her that her salvation was endangered by reading "Uncle Tom's Cabin," has been prohibited from again entering the workhouse, unless he is sent for.

MR. WILDE has been appointed one of the commissioners for taking the ensuing census in Ireland.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has given the new appointment of Secretary of Legation in Japan to Mr. Oliphant who accompanied Lord Elgin in his first visit to Jeddah.

AN OLD "MAN," named John Murphy, aged ninety-seven, died at Wigan last week. After the decease it was found out that John was a woman. She had been thus disguised for a period of fifty years.

DR. ST. KES is to be gazetted Physician Ordinary in Ireland to the Queen, in the place of the late Sir Henry Marsh.

PLYMOUTH STREETS have this week been destitute of cabs and hackney-coaches in consequence of the proprietors not having succeeded in their resistance of some new rules of the Commissioners.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT have entered into a contract for the erection of a commodious building at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, to be used for the purposes of a museum, in which will be deposited the valuable collection of scientific and other articles and specimens deposited now at Fort Pitt.

M. EUGENE DE MIRECOURT, who obtained considerable notoriety some years ago by his biographies and pamphlets, has just died in St. Petersburg in great poverty. Some time back he went to London, but, not being able to establish himself, proceeded to Russia.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL has appointed Major-General Sir Robert Napier, K.C.B., Bengal Engineers, an ordinary member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, in the room of Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, Bart., G.C.B., resigned.

A SUGGESTION for a penny stamp on all bank-notes has been submitted for the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the stamp to be at the cost of the banks.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE BANK OF FRANCE have raised their rate of discount to seven per cent.

PRINCE ALFRED, attended by Major Du Plat and Major Cowell, has arrived at Osborne from the Continent.

MR. CORDEN will address the electors of Rochdale immediately after his return to this country—his only previous appearance being at the London Guildhall, where he is to receive the freedom of the City.

ONE OF THE CHRISTY MINSTRELS committed suicide last week.

LORD RAGLAN had been sleighing near Worcester, and was leading his horse along the road when he fell and broke his arm.

A RETIRED INNKEEPER at Frome shot himself last week because his wife had shown too much affection for her brother.

THE DEATH OF DR. NOBLE, one of the members for Leicester, is announced.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

No man ever entered Parliament with better prospects than Mr. Horsman. He had youth, talent, money, position, and capital talking powers; and, with prudence, he might not only have become a power in the House, but a prominent administrator of public affairs. He came into Parliament first for Cokerham, in 1836, and sat for that borough, with an interval of a year, until 1852, when he was defeated by General Wyndham, the old Waterloo man, lately deceased, who had great influence in the town. But fortunately for Mr. Horsman, in 1853 there occurred a vacancy for Stroud; and, as he was professedly a politician quite to the mind of the men of Stroud, they received him joyfully, and elected him without opposition, and so firmly did he succeed in intrenching himself in the favour of the Stroudians that he has never yet had a contest. Mr. Horsman's special subject in Parliament was church reform. He was for equalising the revenues of the Church, relieving the Bishops of their senatorial duties, &c. And many of us still remember the trenchant manner in which he exposed ecclesiastical abuses, and the zeal with which he advocated church reform. This was Mr. Horsman's particular line; but in general reform he went to great lengths. He advocated the ballot and extension of the suffrage; a reform of the peerage; in short, was a Radical Reformer. In 1841 Mr. Horsman took office. The office was not a lofty one. It was only a Lordship of the Treasury; but still it was a step on the ladder, and with prudence, as Mr. Horsman knew, might lead to an ascent to the highest round. While Mr. Horsman held the office, of course, he was obliged to give up his pet subjects of reform, for Lords of the Treasury are not allowed to prance about on their hobbies. Mr. Horsman, however, did not retain his office long; for he entered upon it in June, and in July the Ministry (Lord Melbourne's) was broken up. It is worthy of note, though here, that after he regained his freedom a manifest change came over his dream. He was a Reformer still, and there is no reason to believe that he had at that time changed his views; but he was less violent, and it was only now and then that he meddled with his old pet topic of church reform; and when he did it was with much more moderation. Mr. Horsman had tasted office, and was probably aiming at a still higher rise. And he was not disappointed; for in February, 1855, Lord Palmerston appointed him Chief Secretary for Ireland, with the salary of £4000 a year. This was a grand step for Mr. Horsman, and with prudence he might have made his position a vantage-ground to a speedy mount to the Cabinet. Of this there was no question; but in prudence the right hon. gentleman lamentably failed. He is said to have neglected his duties, he affronted—not to say, as they did insult—the Irish members; and, when in June, 1857, he suddenly resigned, nobody was surprised. What the special and particular cause of his resignation was did not transpire. Mr. Horsman himself told the House that it was because he found that there were not duties commensurate with the high salary; in short, that the pay was so large and the duties so trifling that he could not in conscience retain the post. A strange reason this, and, if a true one, very honourable to Mr. Horsman; but it was not received with universal credence. Indeed, the duties of the Irish Office are not light. At the time it was currently reported that Mr. Horsman resigned on a hint given by Lord Palmerston, who had been urged to speak by a remonstrance from the Irish members. Others said that Mr. Horsman was disgusted because he was not invited to take a seat in the Cabinet. This is Mr. Horsman's career so far. His subsequent course I need not detail, as it is fresh in everybody's recollection.

When he left the Irish Office he began immediately an "independent" course, in opposition to Lord Palmerston. Whether his conduct is the result of mortified vanity I will not take upon myself to determine. Mr. Horsman has been called an able man, but I think this a mistake. He is an exceedingly clever talker; but of great abilities I cannot think that he has in the whole course of his career given any sign.

Dr. Noble is dead! and there is consequently a vacancy for Leicester. Dr. Noble was a physician retired from practice. He was in the sixty-second year of his age. He was not well last Session; and was travelling on the Continent when death overtook him. Dr. Noble came into Parliament in 1859. In 1857 Mr. John Dove Harris and Mr. Biggs was returned, and Sir Joshua Walsley was defeated—all three were Liberals; and in 1859 the Walsleyites, who had all along been nursing their wrath, put up Dr. Noble and threw out Mr. Harris. There is a good deal of bitter feeling at Leicester still, and whether the Walsleyites or the Harrisites will carry the day is a question which only a poll can decide. This bitter feeling spread beyond the precincts of Leicester, for when Dr. Noble was proposed a candidate for membership at the Reform Club he was blackballed. Dr. Noble was a silent member in the House.

The elevation of Mr. Sidney Herbert to the peerage is done, I suppose, to strengthen the Government in the House of Lords—where, in debating power, they are hardly a match for Derby and Ellenborough. Lord Cranville, the leader, is amiable, but has no power; Lord Clarendon is capable, but indolent; and the Duke of Argyll lays himself open too much to the heavy "facers" of Lord Derby. It is questionable, however, whether the Government will gain much by the elevation of Mr. Sidney Herbert. He is a valuable but not generally an effective speaker, and certainly no match for Lord Derby. But will Lord Derby ever take a prominent position in the debates again? From all I hear I should decide that he most likely will not. Meanwhile, there are audible mutterings of discontent about this elevation of Mr. Herbert. Already there are three principal heads of departments in the Lords—to wit, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the

Secretary of the Colonies, and the Postmaster-General; and to have a fourth there, it is said, is not respectful to the Commons. Seven out of the sixteen members of the Cabinet are now peers of the realm. As the Army and Navy are now so great a charge upon the revenue the Secretary of War and the head of the Admiralty, it is said, ought certainly to be in the Lower House. Whether the grumbling will find tongue in the House will depend very much upon the appointment to the under-secretaryship for war. When Lord Panmure was Secretary for War, Sir John Ramsden was Under Secretary, and, no doubt, would be ready to take office again; but the appointment of so young a man was generally thought to be not a successful experiment; and, moreover, the hon. Baronet has rather sided with his unpopular brother-in-law, Mr. Horsman, of late.

Mr. ANTHONY TROLLOPE's lecture on "The Civil Service as a Profession," which was delivered before the members of the Post Office Library and Literary Association on Friday evening last, deserves, for several reasons, more than a mere cursory record. Not because he is a successful novelist; not because he has achieved a very large amount of literary fame; not because, as a certain humorous essayist chose to state, "he has found the Civil Service, combined with popular novel-writing, to be a very lucrative profession," had Mr. Trollope claim to speak freely to his official brethren, and to be listened to attentively by them, but because, for nearly twenty years before he became a public writer, he had been a hard-working, meritorious public servant; and because his public position is now so settled and so stable as to allow him to speak with freedom and confidence of his official profession without fear of being accused of time-serving, favour-seeking, or bias. The most thorough red-tape devoted to his office, the man who quotes Trevelyan, and Wilson as quasi-littérateurs quote Hallam and Macaulay, or as military martinet speak in reverence of "The Duke," could not more thoroughly have identified himself with the Civil Service, or more consistently have regarded himself as one of its members, disclaiming any other position, than did Mr. Trollope. He commenced by disputing the dictum of the Civil Service Commission, that appointments in the service were usually looked for by the indolent and incapable, by those physically afflicted or unwilling to undertake active exertion; but he allowed that the *res augusta domi*—the necessity for an immediate income—had probably much influence in the choice. But he declared that, once chosen, there was no profession by which, in these realms, a man could earn his bread admitting of a nobler purpose, a brighter honesty, and an action more manly and independent. He held up the sinecurist to ridicule; he denied that there was the smallest necessity for a clerk to bend his neck to any yoke; and he contended that those who did so, and so prospered, were inevitably those who, in after life, imposed the yoke on the necks of their struggling juniors. As to liability to censure, he denied that civil servants were more open to censure than men in other professions. Curates, junior barristers, were occasionally called over the coals. He had even heard of a Bishop who had been censured! He warmly attacked the present system of promotion by merit, by no means defending the old plan of promotion by seniority, but holding the rule *detur digno* and not *detur digniore*—i.e., if the next man in seniority is good enough for the vacant place, let him have it, and don't hunt through the list to try and find a young man hot-crammed from school or college, and promote him simply because he knows more than the officer of long standing, who for all purposes knows enough. Mr. Trollope further warmly advocated the staff appointments of the Civil Service being reserved for the most eligible of civil servants, who could not be contented to see some political or social friend of the Government pitchforked in over their heads, and strongly denounced the restriction which prevented those engaged in the collection of the public revenue from exercising the franchise in the election of members of Parliament.

This lecture was admirably reported by the *Daily News* and the *Daily Telegraph*; the latter journal took upon itself to comment on the theme afterwards in a leading article, the writer of which was evidently not only ignorant of the main subject but can scarcely have taken the pains to read the report of the lecture. "The subject," says this sarcastic commentator, "was the Civil Service, with reference more especially to the competitive examinations, against which the lecturer directed all the logic and wit of which he was master." I, the present writer, had been present at the lecture, but, as I had heard nothing of the sort, I turned to the *Daily News* report: there I found but one sentence alluding to competitive examination, and in that the opinion given was decidedly in its favour. This is stern fact, and should be stated, even though it cuts away the ground on which the lively writer dances through half a column of moral platitudes and sententious prosings. But he is most severe on the audacious proposition that the franchise should be bestowed "on all classes of clerks in Government offices," and thus he writes on this point:—

Even slight reflection on the way in which such a plan must inevitably work ought to suffice to discline us to adopt it, unless accompanied by the ballot. Under any other social conditions, the leader of a department would marshal his clerks and march them to the poll as a colonel would march his regiment, and no force of press or public opinion would be able to counteract his influence. For this reason we fancy that all clerks who respect themselves would rather not possess the right to vote than possess it under such conditions.

This is pure, unadulterated nonsense. Is this sage aware that in every Government department, except the Inland Revenue, the Post Office, and the Customs, the clerks have and exercise free right of franchise? When he talks of "the leader of a department marshalling his clerks, and marching them to the poll as a colonel would march his regiment," can his great mind conceive that the clerks in a department like the Post Office do not all live in the same borough, but are members of different constituencies, and that consequently Brown of Alma Villas, Somers-town; Jones of Petersham-terrace, Clapham; and Robinson of The Erasers, Kensington, could not be marshalled and marched to one poll? Has he ever heard of Lord John Russell "marshalling" the Foreign Office clerks and marching them to Guildhall to record their votes for his Lordship as member for the City, or does Mr. Gladstone make a practice of importing the Treasury employés per express train on the occasion of the election of a member for Oxford University? Marry! to write smartly on "a subject of the day" is meet; but to be informed upon and to think over your subject before you write is also a wholesome practice.

The horrible circumstances under which, on Monday morning, a man was destroyed by a lion at Astley's Amphitheatre surely bear a warning. These exhibitions of quasi-tamed animals are never interesting but from the danger attaching to them; the brutes show no vivacity, no intelligence; they leap a bar, they lie down and permit their keeper to push his head between their jaws; they exhibit humbled ferocity and animal passions *pro tem*, tranquillised; but they show no docility, nor anything but a submission which is evidently the result of harsh treatment. Scarcely a month passes but the metropolitan journals extract from their provincial contemporaries some paragraph announcing some serious accident to the visitors or the "employés" of some of the travelling shows by the escape of the wild beasts; and it is to be hoped that this last fatality will have the effect of stirring the Licensor of Plays, and, through him, the Lord Chamberlain, to the class of performances which undeniably should not be permitted.

Pot and kettle are at variance, and call each other names. The *Saturday Review* is very angry with the *Manchester Review* for having originated a paragraph, which I copied last week, announcing "a split in the proprietary of the *Saturday Review*," and emphatically denies the truth of the rumour. The *Manchester Review* is a coarse, clumsy, and bad imitation of the *Saturday Review*, scurrilous to a degree, but always reproving personality in others; and it has made two or three preposterous misstatements, which those concerned, knowing its trivial circulation, have not thought fit to notice. However, it has at length roused the bile of its *Saturday*

namesake; and it is amusing to see the attempt at dignity which the *Saturday Reviewer* assumes. He is exceedingly angry that a gentleman's name should have been mentioned, and adds his "emphatic protest against the indecency and unfairness of what—were it ever so true—would, after all, be an unwarrantable and impertinent interference with the private concerns of other people." Very noble sentiments; but it is not six months since the *Saturday Review*, in an article on a general subject, promulgated a report—giving name and neighbourhood—that a clergyman's parishioners were subscribing to help him in his suit in the Divorce Court!

Braving the ire of this head despot of literature, let us communicate such "literary gossip" as is rife. Mr. Anthony Trollope's tale of "Framley Parsonage" is drawing to a close, and will probably be concluded in about three more numbers of the *Cornhill*. Meanwhile he starts a new but very much shorter story in Dr. Mackay's weekly journal, the *London Review*, the price of which is to be raised from 3d. to 4d. It is said that, in addition to "The Adventures of Philip," the *Cornhill* is to have a new novel from the pen of Mrs. H. B. Stowe, which is shortly to be commenced; but Mr. Cassell is earlier in the field with the authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This week is announced to be published in the *Illustrated Family Newspaper* the opening of a story by her, entitled "The Pearl of Orr's Island."

The *Oriental Budget*, a very well-compiled epitome of literary news, published by Messrs. Saunders and Otley for Indian circulation, and now agreeably divested of much personality which disfigured its earlier numbers, announces that we may probably look for the early appearance of a new weekly Conservative paper, to be issued at the price of one penny. The new speculation will be well backed by capital, and has one chance of success—that none of the hitherto journalists of the party are to be concerned in its superintendence.

The *Volunteer Service Gazette* has passed into the editorial superintendence of Captain Hans Busk, and Captain "Tom Brown" Hughes is announced as a leading contributor. In such hands this journal ought to become a proper representative of the movement.

The February number of *Temple Bar* will contain, among other papers, an article on "The Management of Domestic Servants," by the author of "Thieves and Thieving," which attracted such notice in the *Cornhill*; an article on "Railway Accidents" by Mr. Haslin, secretary and pupil of Mr. Joseph Locke, the late eminent civil engineer; and an essay on the great French writer, Michael de Montaigne, by Mr. John Oxenford.

The first volume of Mr. Kinglake's "History of the Crimean War" is in the press, and will be published by Mr. Murray in the course of the present month; it will also be the first and second volume of Lord Stanhope's "Life of William Pitt." We may also look for a second series of the delightful "Recreations of a Country Parson" from Messrs. Parker, and a new story by the author of "Guy Livingstone" is understood to be nearly ready.

The rumour that Mr. Russell, of the *Scotsman*, was about to undertake the editorial guidance of a new London daily journal is entirely without truth.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE present Christmas season has not proved a fortunate one for theatrical managers. With the exception, perhaps, of the ADELPHI none are doing great business. There the "Colleen Bawn" crams the house every night; when that attraction ceases (and when that will be who can tell?) Mr. Bourcault will appear in the drama, which created such a furore in America, "The Octoroon."

Mr. Fechter has returned to England, and reappeared in "The Corsican Brothers" at the PRINCESS'S.

Mme. Celeste has generously set apart the proceeds of a forthcoming morning performance for the benefit of the distressed Coventry weavers.

Mr. John Drew has appeared in a serious character, "The Irish Emigrant," at the LYCEUM, and won laurels from his quiet, unexaggerated acting.

Mr. Novra has done good service to the cause of truth by his clever destruction of the spirit-rapping imposture in a lecture at St. James's Hall.

THE HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The annual court of the Governors of the City Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, was held on Tuesday last—the Lord Mayor, M.P., presiding. The report showed that the number of in-patients relieved last year was 425, and of out-patients 7725. The income amounted to £4258 14s. 8d., and the expenditure to £2337 16s. 1d. £1500 had been borrowed, and the committee are anxious to obtain funds to meet this liability.

IMPERIAL SPONSORS.—It may be remembered that at the birth of the Prince Imperial, on the 16th of March, 1856, the Emperor and Empress declared themselves godfather and godmother of all the children born in France on the same day. Their Majesties have just decided that they will assume the same character with regard to the children born on that day in the newly-annexed departments, and in consequence the Préfet of the Haute-Savoie has addressed a circular to the Mayors of his department requesting them to give him a list of all legitimate children living who were born on the day in question, together with details respecting the character and pecuniary situation of the parents.

ANOTHER CRIMINAL ACCIDENT.—The dress of a young lady, the daughter of General Power, caught fire while reaching over towards the mantelpiece. In the vain effort to extinguish the flames, the upper part of her dress caught fire; and when her brother arrived to her assistance the curtains in which she had endeavoured to wrap herself were also in a blaze. The injuries which she sustained were so severe that in the course of a few hours she died.

THE LOST CAMILLA.—From accounts received from various quarters we fear that all hope of the safety of H.M.S. Camilla must be abandoned. The Camilla was a sailing-vessel, and mounted 16 guns. She was commanded by Commander George T. Colville, 1855, and sailed from Devonport for the East Indies on the 25th of August, 1856. The Camilla is supposed to have foundered during a typhoon on the coast of Japan.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT MALTA.—The great Christian anniversary was celebrated with great élan at Malta. The seamen of the Victor Emmanuel, Captain Clifford, R.N., fitted their ship up very tastefully, and had an excellent supply of all sorts of eatables. An old officer, a Captain in the Navy, who went on board as a spectator, said that during all the years he had been at sea he had never seen anything to equal the seamen's dinner on that day.

COUNT TELEKI AND THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR.—A Vienna correspondent of the *Independence Belge* gives the following details of Count Teleki's interview with the Emperor:—"Count Teleki had just been removed from the fortress of Josephstadt to the prison of the Criminal Tribunal of Vienna. After his first examination he wrote a few lines in French to Baron Vay, in which he said that, being shut up in a prison belonging to a tribunal whose authority he did not recognise, he begged the Baron to grant him an interview. Some hours afterwards an officer came and took the prisoner away with him in a carriage. The Count soon found himself in the cabinet, not of the Chancellor of Hungary, but of the Emperor, at whose side were Baron Vay and his chief Aide-de-Camp, Count de Crenneville. Without giving Count Teleki time to recover himself the Emperor said, 'I know that you are the enemy of my Government, and I am acquainted with all the revolutionary plots in which you have taken part, or, at least, been aware of. Nevertheless, I am ready to restore you to full and entire liberty on three conditions, which you will promise to observe on your word as a man of honour and a gentleman. These conditions are that you break off all political relations with foreign countries, that you fix your residence in my States, and that you abstain from all political agitation.'—'Even within lawful limits?' asked the Count, after a few moments' reflection. 'For the present, at least, such is my desire,' replied the Emperor. The Count reflected a few minutes; then he declared himself ready to accept the proposed conditions. He was already on the threshold of the door on his way from the room, when he turned back and begged his Majesty to accept his thanks. He then went with Baron Vay to the house of Count Seeszen; but his emotion was so great that he nearly fainted."

THE STEAM-SHIP QUEEN VICTORIA.—But faint hopes are now entertained that it will be possible to get off this fine vessel, for she is filling more rapidly than the water can possibly be got out of her by the ship's pumps. Her mainmast is broken close to the deck, and it was only prevented from falling over her side by the rigging. The crew have been engaged in getting out the stores of the vessel and their own baggage. The telegraph cable she has on board weighs nearly 1600 tons, and is 400 miles in length.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

AT Her Majesty's Theatre "Queen Topaze"—of which the false brilliancy has been justly appreciated by the public—has been laid aside. At least, it was replaced, at the beginning of the present week, by the first and fourth acts of that startling novelty the "Trovatore;" and we have no doubt that the audience of what was once the first operatic theatre in this country have now heard quite enough of M. Victor Massé's showy but unattractive work. "The Marriage of George" is better, inasmuch as it is more simple as to the melodies, and less pretentious in every respect, than the "Queen Topaze;" but we have no great admiration for either of these operas. At the Royal Italian Opera, however, M. Victor Massé had full justice done to him; whereas at Her Majesty's Theatre the only part in the "Queen Topaze" worthily sustained was that of the heroine. Middle Parepa, being a vocalist of great taste and acquirements, sings all music well; but the light florid airs of Mr. E. T. Smith's Christmas opera are far less suited to her than the energetic and highly dramatic strains of Leonora in the "Trovatore." The operatic performances at Her Majesty's Theatre are conducted just now in a more slovenly manner than usual. After the palm-trees in "Robin Hood" we are prepared for any sort of absurdity at this theatre in the way of scenery; but, now that "the waits" at Christmas time are looked upon as a nuisance, what excuse can there be for having such an orchestra as we are forced to listen to at an establishment which once possessed the finest operatic band in London, and which, if only for its ancient reputation, ought certainly to keep together, at all seasons, a decent company of instrumental performers? The scenery in the pantomime is certainly very admirable. We shall, perhaps, appear captious when we state, what we really believe to be the case, that it is *too good*. Our meaning is that the director of an operatic theatre should not lavish so much money on pantomimes, and spend so little on operas. How many good instrumentalists first-rate chorus-singers, excellent dancers might be engaged for the money which it costs the manager of Her Majesty's Theatre to produce two or three elaborate, magnificently-painted scenes? The admirers of pantomime (if, out of the nursery, admirers of pantomime really exist) may say that, from their point of view, a manager is quite right in expending any available amount of money on pantomimic scenes. To this we can only reply that we are writing about musical affairs, that the first duty of an operatic manager is to produce his operas in a becoming manner, and that it is a great mistake, at Her Majesty's Theatre, to make opera subordinate to pantomime.

At the Royal Italian Opera the pantomime is also the great feature in the performance just now—or at least was until Monday last, when Mr. Alfred Mellon's "Victorine" (of which we gave a long and detailed account last season) was revived, with Miss Louisa Pyne in the principal part. The pantomime at this theatre has already been described in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*. A pantomime seen for the second time is seldom amusing; but the Covent Garden "Bluebeard" will be always entertaining as long as it is played by Mr. W. H. Payne, who, in his own expressive style, is infinitely the best actor on our stage. This "mute" but far from "inglorious" performer represents the wife-killing Bluebeard, pursued by the demon of Remorse, in a manner at once terrible and ludicrous to behold. Equally good—indeed, quite of a piece with this scene—is the following one, in which Bluebeard, who simply wishes to get a good night's rest, is troubled by the apparitions of his murdered and now headless wives. He had slain them separately, and yet they now came before him six at a time. This seemed to us not quite fair. He had loved them all, and, *quia multum amavit*, he is thus persecuted! When the six wives throw their heads at Bluebeard we confess we almost pity him; but, then, Bluebeard is represented by Mr. W. H. Payne. There is one fault, however in this pantomime. No blood-stains are visible on the fatal key. For this departure from the old story some facetious reasons are adduced in Mr. Bridgeman's excellent dialogue; but the nursery legend ought to have been strictly adhered to, especially in this important point, and we are sure that children would like to see it followed in every particular. The pantomimic scenery at the Royal Italian Opera, as at Her Majesty's Theatre, is of the most magnificent description. Here, again, we cannot look upon the ruinously expensive tableaux without saying to ourselves, "What a pity the money was not kept to be given to singers and dancers!"

And now a few words about "Victorine." Miss Pyne's performance of the principal part from beginning to end can, according to the *Telegraph*, be only described by one word; and "and," adds our contemporary, "that monosyllable is—perfection." We endorse the opinion of our learned friend without adopting his words. "Perfection" is not exactly a monosyllable (if some of the writers in the *Telegraph* could only learn what monosyllables are, and would use them a little more!); but Miss Pyne's singing in "Victorine" is, nevertheless, perfection. She gives the final rondo with wonderful brilliancy, and all the sentimental airs with exquisite feeling. Mr. Haigh is much and deservedly applauded for his tasteful singing of the various ballads assigned to the virtuous lover. The bad man of the piece finds an efficient representative in Mr. Wharton; the part of Griffon, the comic per-onage, is allotted to Mr. Wallworth; that of Louise to Miss Whirlwall.

We hear that "Le Domino Noir" is about to be produced at the Royal Italian Opera, of course with Miss Louisa Pyne in the principal part. Mr. Alfred Mellon is at work at a new opera; Mr. Benedict at two—"Esmeralda" and the "Colleen Bawn," the libretto of both by Mr. Bourcault. Mr. Vincent Wallace has long had an opera completed on the subject of "The Amber Witch" (libretto by Mr. H. F. Chorley). Mr. Frank Mori is said to have finished his "Lambert Simmel;" and we hear of other English composers who are writing for the stage. Mr. Macfarren's "Sleeper Awakened" (libretto by Mr. John Oxenford) was originally intended, we believe, for the concert-room, but it is said to be eminently suited for dramatic representation.

Another "novelty" in preparation is Glinka's "Life for the Tzar," which is being translated under the auspices of Prince Galitzin. This work is the masterpiece of the great Russian composer (who, by-the-way, was Prince Galitzin's preceptor and intimate friend); and, even if its original, characteristic, and highly-dramatic music did not ensure its success, the opportunities it presents for scenic display would sufficiently recommend it to our operatic managers, who just now in England, as in all parts of the world, have a passion for spectacle. The libretto of the "Life for the Tzar" is founded on an incident in the war of independence which followed the occupation of Moscow by the Poles in 1612, when Russia was on the point of being partitioned between Poland and Sweden. The Poles had been expelled from the capital, and Michael, the first of the Romanoffs, had been elected Tzar, when the invaders returned, gained a temporary success, and were near capturing the young Monarch. A peasant, Ivan Soussannin, was taken prisoner and ordered to lead the Poles to the place where Michael lay concealed. He conducted the enemy to a wood from which they could find no issue, told them that he had purposely deceived them, and suffered death at their hands—a martyr to loyalty and patriotism. In the opera Soussannin dies singing a patriotic song, which has been previously heard several times in the opera. Of course, too, he has to choose between his love for the heroine of the piece and his duty to his country. The manner in which the gradual approach of the Polish army is indicated in the orchestra, while an important concerted piece is being sung on the stage, the march itself, Soussannin's great song, and the national Russian hymn (which was performed a few times last autumn at the Floral Hall under the direction of Prince Galitzin, and which must not be confounded with the official hymn composed by Lvoff), are among the most remarkable pieces which this admirable work contains.

LUTHER'S RINGS.

We have not yet reached such a *nil admirari* condition as to leave us without interest in any relics of the great "monk who moved the world." Luther's rings of betrothal and marriage have both been preserved. The former, which he presented to Catherine de Bora, the fair lady of his choice, on the day of her betrothal, is now in the possession of a family at Leipsic. It is of curiously-embossed workmanship, and of the purest gold, set with a ruby, and having also, in strong relief, a representation of the Crucifixion of our Saviour. Within the ring were engraved the names of both the betrothed, to which was afterwards added, in smaller letters, the date of their wedding-day (der 13 Junij, 1525).

Luther's marriage-ring was in the year 1817 in good keeping as a great relic in the old town of Wolfenbüttel, in the electorate of Hanover, where it was seen and described; and it is, in all probability, still there. It is of much plainer workmanship, which would make it appear that Luther wore it himself, while the richly-embossed betrothal-ring served his fair lady as her wedding-ring after her marriage.

The marriage-ring of Luther is ingeniously formed of two distinct hoops, the one set with a ruby and the other with a diamond. These two stones, when the ring is closed, lie side by side; and beneath them is concealed the connecting groove which holds them together. This ring, as well as the betrothal, bears the respective initials of the bridal pair—"C. de B."—the lady's being engraved on the ruby, as emblematic of exalted love, whilst those of Luther—"M. L. D."—are on the diamond, that stone being the emblem of power, duration, and fidelity. Underneath these initials, extending the length of both stones, is also engraved, in old German characters, "Was Gott zusammen füget soll kein Mensch scheiden"—What God doth join no man shall part."



LUTHER'S RINGS.

At an early period Lord Byron, Hastings, General Church, Hamilton, and others, all exerted themselves in our favour, and we received innumerable tokens of sympathy from the British nation at large."

THE WEATHER.

THE continued frost has allured thousands of skaters and sliders to the parks this week, and not only during the day, but at night, when the giddy amusement is carried on by torchlight. On Wednesday evening the Serpentine presented an extraordinary scene. It is estimated that there were upwards of 200,000 persons in Hyde Park, and the drive along the river was for two hours completely blocked with carriages of the nobility and gentry, while along the banks masses of persons were congregated. From the bridge down to the extreme end of the river was one continuous blaze, there being upwards of 50,000 skaters and sliders, nearly all of whom carried lighted torches. The centre, as well as near the banks of the river, was lined by several hundred tents, skating-booths, refreshment-pavilions, &c. Near the east end was erected a large tent for the supply of wine, porter, and refreshments of all descriptions; while the vendors of hot coffee, &c., drove a most profitable trade. Several displays of fireworks took place upon the ice; and blue, green, and red fires were ignited, producing an extraordinary effect.

On Wednesday evening the scene in Hyde Park was again one of a most extraordinary character, the whole of the frozen surface of the Serpentine being crowded by thousands of skaters and sliders, while from one end to the other a large number of tents were erected, the whole having the appearance of a large fancy fair. The tents were each illuminated by festoons of crystal lamps and Chinese lanterns, while at various points were stationed bands of music, to which skating quadrilles and other dances were kept up to a late hour. About seven o'clock there were upwards of 10,000 persons upon the surface, which number was very much increased after eight o'clock. At this time a brilliant display of fireworks took place. Besides the amusement afforded by skating and sliding, various other pastimes were resorted to upon the frozen surface. At one place a tent was erected, under the name of the "Royal Bowling Alley," where the game of nine pins was carried on for several hours with the utmost vigour, while "Cheap Jacks" sold their wares, most of which were described as being of patent design, at the most fabulous prices.

There have been many accidents, not only on the Serpentine, but on the Round Pond, and in St. James's Park. Several persons

have been drowned; but the larger number of accidents comprise broken limbs and concussion of the brain.

The weather in Devonshire last week has been extremely severe. A rapid thaw took place which caused the Rivers Exe, Culme, Creedy, and Clyst to overflow their banks, and so great was the spread of water that the adjacent marshes had the appearance of a sea. Some villages were inundated, and ricks of hay and other valuable agricultural stock were carried away by the water. At Hatherleigh, in the north of Devon, a party of marines, being on their way home in an omnibus to visit their friends after a sea-voyage, got immersed in the water, and their lives were saved with great difficulty. On the road to Moreton, which is near Dartmoor, an old man, seventy-six years of age, was found dead in the snow. At Kingsbridge another old man, while working in a lane, dropped down, and died from the severity of the weather.

The frost has been remarkably severe in Worcestershire. The Avon flooded to a great extent, and the whole of the flooded waters now being frozen up, the vale is a perfect sea of ice. At Worcester the racecourse was flooded after the melting of the snow last week, and completely covered with water from the Severn. This froze at the end of the week and was covered with many thousands of persons skating, sliding, and otherwise disporting themselves.—Similar accounts of the severity of the winter reach us from various parts of the country.

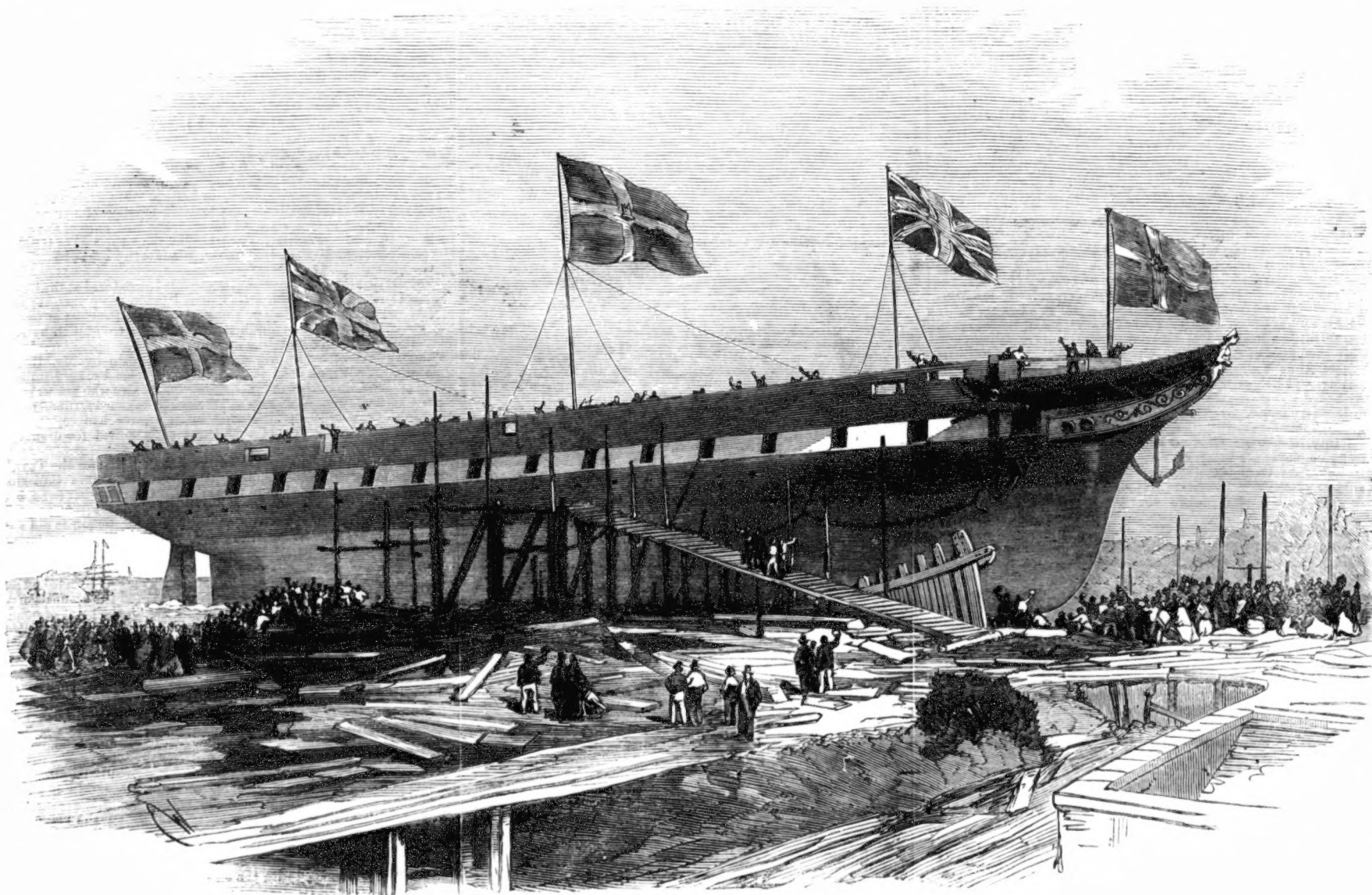
A MAN KILLED BY A LION AT ASTLEY'S.

A TERRIBLE encounter took place at Astley's Amphitheatre on Monday morning. An under-groom named Smith was killed by one of the lions which play so prominent a part in the holiday entertainments at that favourite place of amusement. The lions, three in number, are confined in a cage at the back of the stage. When the night watchman left the theatre on Monday morning, a few minutes before seven, he reported "all right." Shortly afterwards Smith, the deceased, entered the place and found the lions prowling about. They had torn off a heavy iron bar which crossed the front of their cage, and then burst open the door. Smith was alone, and, not being familiar with the animals, he attempted to escape into an adjoining stable-yard. His situation was a frightful one, and most men would have acted precisely as he did under similar circumstances; but the probability is that if he had stood his ground boldly his life would have been saved. Unfortunately, one of the lions—that which is known by the name of Havelock—caught sight of his retreating figure and instantly sprang upon him. It seized him by the haunches, pulled him to the ground, and then fixed its teeth in his throat. Death must have been almost instantaneous; but, as Smith was found a good deal cut and bruised at the back of the head, it is supposed that the lion, after burying its fangs in his throat, dragged him about and dashed his head against the ground. It seems, in fact, to have worried him, though the wounds inflicted by the brute are neither numerous nor severe. There were no cries for help, but a sort of shuffling noise was heard by a man in the stable-yard. He suspected what had occurred, and did not venture to open the door through which Smith had endeavoured to escape, but he gave the alarm, and in a few minutes was joined by several grooms and others connected with the theatre. They were all, however, too much afraid to enter the place, and nothing was done to ascertain the fate of Smith until the arrival of Crockett, "The Lion Conqueror," to whom the animals belong. As soon as he reached the spot he passed through the door alone, none of the others daring to follow. The body of Smith was lying face upwards a few feet from the door, and Havelock was crouching over it as a hungry dog crouches over a piece of meat. Crockett immediately threw the animal off, and dragged the body into the yard. It was still warm, but life had been extinct for some time. Crockett lost no time in securing the lions. They allowed him to capture them after some difficulty. One of them walked into the theatre and occupied a box. In half an hour all three were back in their cage again, and next night they went through their usual performances before a crowded audience. Smith was unmarried.

LAUNCH OF THE AMALIA FRIGATE AT NORTHFLEET DOCKYARD.

THE *Amalia* screw steam-frigate, of 1338 tons, the recent successful launch of which forms the subject of one of our Engravings, is the largest vessel of war that has been constructed for the Greek Government since the establishment of the independence or nationality of Greece. The *Amalia* was built at Northfleet Dockyard by Mr. Henry S. Pitcher, and is the 191st vessel launched from that establishment, of which large number 130 have been built for the British and for various European Governments. The principal dimensions of the *Amalia* are:—Length between perpendiculars, 200 ft.; extreme breadth, 38 ft.; and depth of hold, 18 ft. She is pierced for a battery of 36 guns of large calibre, placed under cover of a flush spar-deck, and her engines are direct acting, of 300 nominal horse power, by Messrs. Humphrey, Tennant, and Co., Deptford. The ceremony of christening the *Amalia* (which formed the occasion of a reunion of the principal Greek merchants of the metropolis, the vessel being named after the present Queen of Greece, who is colossally represented by the figure-head) was performed by Miss Ionides, daughter of the Greek Consul-General; and at an elegant déjeuner, provided for his numerous guests by Mr. Henry Pitcher in the extensive mould-loft of the establishment, which was most tastefully and appropriately decorated with the flags of all nations, the health of her Majesty the Queen of England, of their Majesties the King and Queen of Greece, and other appropriate toasts, were drunk.

Mr. Spyridion Mavrojan, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, Messrs. Melas and Mostras, intrusted by the Greek Government with the official superintendence of the building of the *Amalia*, gratefully acknowledged the services rendered by England towards the achievement of the independence of Greece. In the course of his address Mr. Mavrojan said, "Experience has taught us the generous sentiments of this great nation towards the Greeks, and it is impossible for me to enumerate the generous contribution of the English towards us during our national struggle. For it was in England that committees were first established for the purpose of promoting all that was necessary for the success of our revolution."



THE LAUNCH OF THE GREEK FRIGATE "AMALIA," AT NORTHFLEET.

LAW AND CRIME.

At the Cirencester Petty Sessions a ragged, nearly starving, labourer was brought up a few days since, charged with poaching. The evidence against him was that of a man who on the night of the alleged offence knocked up the prisoner who was sleeping in his cottage, and pressed him to come out and shoot a pheasant. The prisoner, to whom the witness was an entire stranger, had no gun, and the informer not only provided the gun, but loaded it, and placed it in the prisoner's hand. When the two arrived at a preserve belonging to Earl Bathurst, the witness directed the prisoner's attention to a pheasant which the prisoner fired at, but did not hit. The other loaded the weapon for him four times, and the prisoner, as often, discharged it without success. The same night the witness pointed out a rabbit in a hedge, and the prisoner fired at it, and killed it. The witness picked it up and pocketed it. For the first of these offences the prisoner was by the bench of justices sentenced, upon the evidence of the actual instigator, to three months' imprisonment, and directed at the end of that time to find sureties for six months longer. He was then further charged with the second offence—namely, shooting the rabbit. Again the hiring spy stood in the witness-box, and again, with unblushing audacity, detailed how he himself had entrapped the prisoner into the misdemeanour charged. The justices heard the evidence, and were consulting apparently on the exact amount of punishment which it might be sufficiently wrong to inflict, when a gentleman named Boodle suddenly rose, and indignantly denounced the disgraceful proceedings. We quote the following report of Mr. Boodle's main expression of feeling on the matter:—

"He did not speak as an attorney, but as an Englishman, but he thought any man with English feeling must feel indignant at the manner in which this poor starving wretch had been trapped into crime. This witness had been brought from a distant part of the country to tempt this poor man; he had lured him out of bed, begged as a favour that he would go with him, had himself produced the gun and the ammunition, and was, in fact, the prime instigator of the offence with which the prisoner was charged. He (Mr. Boodle) had hoped that the system pursued by Jonathan Wild, of first making men thieves and then taking blood-money for their apprehension, had been extinct in this country since that worthy was executed. But he was sorry to find that it was not so, but that the iniquitous system still found favour on the estates of Lord Bathurst and with the magistrates of Cirencester."

Mr. Boodle then asked for the address of the witness, who, having no license, had rendered himself liable to similar charges as those against the prisoner. To the still deeper disgrace, if possible, of the Court, the magistrates' clerk advised the witness not to answer the question. Of course every one who has ever been in a witness-box, or seen another there, knows that the invariable custom in courts of justice is to inquire the name and description of a witness as a preliminary to receiving his evidence. The witness, while refusing his address, admitted that he had been brought from a distant part of the country "for the express purpose of catching men as he had caught the prisoner." Mr. Boodle declared that in such a case he would himself turn informer, and at once applied for informations. The effect of this, backed by the assurance of an Inland Revenue officer who happened to be present that the case should be brought before the Commissioners, so awakened the justices that they refused to convict on the second charge. Thereby it will be at once perceived they virtually acknowledged the injustice of the sentence already pronounced upon precisely similar evidence. The excitement in court found vent in hearty cheering of Mr. Boodle, and the miserable skulking witness was obliged to hurry out of the court through a side door and protected by the police. Mr. Boodle then characterized the whole proceedings as the most disgraceful he had ever witnessed, and pledged himself to bring the case under the notice of the Secretary of State. As usually appears when a bench of magistrates is paraded before the public in connection with any peculiarly cruel or unjust proceedings, one of the presiding Solons was a clergyman. It is a most singular fact, for which we leave the discovery of a reason to more inquiring minds, that a clerical education and position, however estimable may be its possessor, appears invariably to unfit him for the duties of the bench. Another point in connection with these cases is that, after all those which periodically appear in the public prints afford an indication only of the flagrancy of the injustice dispensed by the "great unpaid," and by no means of the number of cases, in which this is manifested. But for the fortunate presence of Mr. Boodle, the prisoner above mentioned might have been quietly sent off to gaol and hard labour for a long period, and the public know nothing of the matter. But, after all, what is to be expected from mis-called "justices," whose only required qualification is that of sufficient wealth and influence, without reference even to the commonest requirements? We have before us a copy of a letter from a Mr. Warde, who lately distinguished himself by a certain degree of profligate immorality for too bad to be here detailed, and who, having been promptly dismissed from office by the Lord Chancellor in consequence, indites the following elegant epistle:—

Mr. Warde's most respectful compliments to Lord Chancellor Campbell, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of his letter of the 29th ult. (received this post only), with his Lordship's notification of dismissal from the magistracy, on the ground, not of immorality, but from not knowing "right from wrong," as enunciated in Mr. Warde's own evidence in Hooper v. Warde. Mr. Warde supposes his Lordship had not then seen his letter to the *Morning Herald* (copy sent his Lordship on the 29th), which somewhat explains Mr. Warde's own evidence (is it not rather hard to punish on a man's own evidence?); but, *n'importe*, Mr. Warde verily believes this to be the first error of judgment Lord Campbell has committed, and sincerely hopes he may long continue an ornament to the Bench, and speedily discover his present error.

Of course, nobody complains of Mr. Warde's dismissal; but does not the system which could set up such an illiterate person on the seat of judgment require some little attention and revision?

An insolvent presented himself for release from his debts, having incurred them whilst employed at a salary of £100 per annum. He was opposed by a schoolmaster, who complained that insolvent had

placed his boy with him, the creditor, as a boarder at £60 a year. The creditor complained of this transaction as "swindling." For this expression he was reproved by Mr. Commissioner Nicholls, after whose rebuke the creditor withdrew. The learned Commissioner, nevertheless, in delivering judgment, stated that this debt had been contracted without reasonable probability of payment, and remanded the insolvent. So that unjustifiably contracting debt is in the Insolvent Court regarded as reprehensible. But it is also reprehensible to call such an offence "swindling" in the Court of Mr. Commissioner Nicholls.

One Henderson, who takes cheap photographs on Sunday, has been again summoned before the Lord Mayor for so doing. He was convicted and fined 5s. and costs; in all, about 7s. 6d. Mr. Lewis, solicitor for the prosecution, represented that the defendant, continually summoned for the same cause, paid the fines imposed and continued his business nevertheless. Mr. Lewis therefore suggested that defendant should be prosecuted for contravening the Act of Parliament. The Lord Mayor, however, declined to strain the law with reference to Sunday trading. As it stands, therefore, the statute on this point need only be complied with by persons unable to pay out of their trade profits 7s. 6d. weekly for Sabbath breaking. Three half-crowns hebdomadally paid will enable any tradesman (victuallers and beer-sellers excepted) to carry on his usual avocation seven days a week. This is funny enough, inasmuch as the offence to be punished by the law is evidently not so much the Sunday trading as the not realising thereby sufficient profit to allow of the payment of the 7s. 6d.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

ROBBERY BY A TRADESMAN.—Henry Bell, twenty-seven, was charged with stealing a quantity of bacon, some hams, and some cheese, the property of Messrs. Crosswell and Brookings, wholesale cheesemongers, in Upper Thames-street.

The prisoner carried on business as a cheesemonger in the Hackney-road, and induced prosecutors to send him the goods in question, upon the understanding that they were to be paid for on delivery, and they positively refused to give him credit. The prisoner induced the prosecutor's carman to place the goods in his shop, and, when he had done so, he refused to pay for them, and ordered him off the premises, and upon one of the prosecutors going to him to demand his money, or the restoration of his property, the prisoner abused him most grossly and threatened to stab him.

The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

POLICE.

AN AREA SNEAK.—Thomas Wilson, wearing a white apron under his coat, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to steal a quantity of plate.

Mrs. Griffiths deposed—I reside in Torrington-square. On the 31st of December, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, I had to go into the kitchen, my servants being all out. On entering the kitchen I perceived a man in the cupboard where the plate is kept. I saw his head in the plate-basket, and heard a sound as if some spoons or forks had been dropped amongst the other articles in the basket, and the man turned towards me. It was the prisoner. I asked him what he wanted there? He replied, "I have come to see if there is any broken china or glass to mend." He then attempted to escape by the area door, but I followed and stopped him, laying hold of his collar, and detaining him with considerable difficulty. I called for the police, and some person fetched a constable.

The prisoner said he had entered the house to inquire if there was any broken china or glass to mend, as he got his living by doing jobs of that kind. Finding no one in the kitchen, he looked into the cupboard to see if there were any broken articles there. He denied having put his hand into the plate-basket. He could not refer to any one who knew anything of him.

Mr. Henry committed the prisoner for trial.

SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION WANTED.—William McGregor, a well-dressed young man, was charged with obtaining a silver-plated tea service, value £4 10s., from Messrs. Turner and Mill, ironmongers, Bishopsgate-street Without.

The prisoner had gone into the shop of the prosecutors on the 1st of December, and asked them to send a tea-service to Messrs. Arnold's office, Great St. Helen's, for approval, saying that he expected the captain of a ship to call and look at the articles. The goods were sent upon the understanding that they were to be paid for or returned. A day or two afterwards the prosecutors sent to Great St. Helen's for the money or the goods, but were unable to obtain either, and the offices that were occupied by a person named Arnold were empty.

Monger, the detective officer, intimated that he had reason to believe that several similar charges could be brought forward against the prisoner.

Mr. Beard said he was instructed that the defendant could explain the whole of the transaction satisfactorily, and asked that he might be remanded for a few days to give him an opportunity of doing so.

The Lord Mayor accordingly remanded him until Wednesday next.

CATCHING DACE.—John Dace was charged with having in his possession a number of silver spoons, forks, ladles, &c., of the supposed value of £60.

About one o'clock on Saturday the prisoner went to the shop of Mr. Reeve, pawnbroker, Chapel-street, Edgeware-road, and asked him if he would purchase a silver waiter and a candlestick, which he produced. He (Mr. Reeve) objected to do so unless he could satisfactorily account for the possession of them; and if he did not he would send for a policeman. He was then about to run away, when he was stopped by Mr. Reeve, who sent for a constable and gave him into custody. He was taken to the station-house, where were found in his possession twenty-six silver spoons, thirteen silver forks, two ladles, &c.

He was remanded.

Doble, 147 D, stated that on the next occasion the owner of the property would be in attendance, in whose service the prisoner had been.

TREATMENT OF THE POOR IN ST. MARGARET'S PARISH.—A poor attenuated lad of seventeen or eighteen applied to Mr. Paynter, saying that he was without a home and perfectly destitute, and that the authorities would not take him in at the workhouse.

Mr. Paynter—What workhouse did you go to?

Applicant—The workhouse of St. Margaret, in York-street, Westminster.

Mr. Paynter—You do not, surely, mean to say that they would not take you in on such a night as last night?

Applicant (almost in tears)—No. I was there some hours, and at ten o'clock they told me they could do nothing for me.

Mr. Paynter—It is shameful. Go to the parish and tell them from me it is at their peril to keep you out.

A very respectable-looking woman stood up and said she knew the boy had applied to the workhouse, as he came to her house and sat about the doorway; and she knew he was quite destitute.

Mr. Paynter (to the boy)—Where did you sleep last night?

The boy—Nowhere. I walked about the streets.

Knowledge, the summoning officer—I know he was at the house, for I saw him about there.

Mr. Paynter (to Knowledge)—Go down to the parish with him, and see about it. It is perfectly intolerable these constant complaints about this parish.

AUDACIOUS SWINDLING.—Mr. Whiteman, engraver, of High Holborn, waited on Mr. Corrie to ask advice in a case of swindling. A person, unknown to him, was going about amongst his customers personating him, and borrowing money.

Mr. Corrie—You have not been defrauded. Let the person who has been defrauded come forward and make the application.

Mr. Whiteman—It is not one person only, but numbers of my customers. It will be very awkward for me if people are thus cheated in my name.

Mr. Corrie—Not at all. If people will lend money to strangers, that is their own fault. They can't make you responsible. Besides, you know nothing about it; it is only what you have been told.

Mr. Whiteman—I am afraid, Sir, it is carried on as a regular system. He called on one of my customers in the Kingsland-road, and borrowed 6s. He also called on Mr. Hansford, a customer of mine. Mr. Hansford had seen me, but as the man produced one of our cards, and said he was Mr. Whiteman, the inference in the mind of Mr. Hansford was, "Oh, then it must be Mr. Bass that I know." The man said he had taken a house in that neighbourhood, and in helping the men who were moving the goods in had taken off and mislaid his great coat, in the pocket of which was his purse, containing besides gold and silver, a couple of cheques. Upon this representation Mr. Hansford lent him 10s. After an interval he called again, and said he had fortunately found one of the cheques in his waistcoat pocket, and if Mr. Hansford would give him the difference he would repay the 10s. Mr. Hansford accordingly gave him £17s. 6d., the amount of the cheque being £27s. 6d. It purported to be drawn by the firm of Elliot and Watney, brewers, but it was a forgery. He indorsed it with my name, which of course is also a forgery. He also paid a visit to Mr. Hansford's brother, a grocer in Stoke Newington, from whom he received a loan of 6s. on similar pretences, after being treated with great hospitality, having wine and luncheon, &c.

Mr. Corrie expressed his astonishment that people should be so foolish as to part with their money in this way. Any one might as well get hold of his card and use in the same manner. The defrauded persons should apply each to the magistrate in whose district the offence was committed.

Mr. Whiteman—But I was in hopes that the publication—

Mr. Corrie—We have nothing to do with any publication. I am afraid I cannot assist you. You had better consult a solicitor.

THE "MONEY-WANTED" SWINDLE.—The following will act as a caution to those who desire to obtain a large amount of interest for their money:—

A man asked the advice of Sir Robert Carden under the following circumstances:—

It appeared that the applicant had been induced, by an advertisement he had seen in one of the papers, to lend £15 to a man who stated he was a respectable tradesman, and gave a reference, but at a long distance from the City. The man offered him £6 as interest for one week, and offered as security a number of pawnbrokers' duplicates to an amount much larger than the sum to be lent, and also gave a promissory note, to fall due at the end of the week. The applicant, thinking the duplicates and the note sufficient security, and being very busy at the time, sent the money without going to the party given as a reference. The week, however, had long since elapsed, but he had not got his money, and could not find his man. Under these circumstances he went to look at the goods referred to on the tickets; but the pawnbroker would not allow him to see them unless he took them out; so he had taken out two of the articles, and discovered that they were worth half what they had been pawned for. He wanted to know if he could give the man into custody if he could find him.

Sir Robert said that it appeared to him a case of "biter bit," and the only advice he could give him was not to lend money again. He thought him very lucky that he had bought his experience for such a small sum as £15. His only course was, if he could find the man, to sue him in the county court.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE continued heavy shipments of bullion to the United States—the most unfavourable advice at hand from thence in a political point of view—and the great demand for accommodation at the Bank of France, have led to a result which most persons might have anticipated—viz. a rise in the minimum price for money to seven per cent. This advance has, too, in some measure, been produced by the continuous purchases of gold by the Bank of France, and the consequent withdrawal of gold from the Bank of France, have led to a result which most persons might have anticipated—viz. a rise in the minimum price for money to seven per cent. This advance has, too, in some measure, been produced by the continuous purchases of gold by the Bank of France, and the consequent withdrawal of gold from the Bank of France, have led to a result which most persons might have anticipated—viz. a rise in the minimum price for money to seven per cent. 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